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**Spectral Discrimination between Explosions
and Earthquakes in Central Eurasia**

W. W. Chan
R. Baumstark
R. K. Cessaro

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Teledyne Geotech
314 Montgomery Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1581

AD-A230 048

August 1990

Scientific Report No. 1

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GEOPHYSICS LABORATORY
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS 01731-5000

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Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
Nuclear Monitoring Research Office
ARPA ORDER NO 5307

MONITORED BY
Geophysics Laboratory
F19628-89-C-0036

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This technical report has been reviewed and is approved for publication.


JAMES F. LEWKOWICZ
Contract Manager
Solid Earth Geophysics Branch
Earth Sciences Division


JAMES F. LEWKOWICZ
Branch Chief
Solid Earth Geophysics Branch
Earth Sciences Division

FOR THE COMMANDER


DONALD H. ECKHARDT, Director
Earth Sciences Division

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

**Form Approved
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Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED	
	August 90	Scientific Report #1, May 89 - May 90	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE			5. FUNDING NUMBERS
Spectral Discrimination between Explosions and Earthquakes in Central Eurasia			F19628-89-C-0036 PE 62714E PN 9A10 TN DA WUAN BC
6. AUTHOR(S)			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
W. W. Chan, R. Baumstark, R. K. Cessaro			TGAL-90-01
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER
Teledyne Geotech 314 Montgomery Street Alexandria, VA 22314-1581			GL-TR-90-0217
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			
DARPA/NMRO Geophysics Laboratory 1400 Wilson Boulevard Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000 Arlington, VA 22209-2308 Contract Manager: James Lewkowicz/LWH			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES			
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited			
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)			
<p>An analysis is performed of the seismic discrimination capabilities of regional phases recorded at the station WMQ in the Chinese Digital Seismic Network (CDSN). This station is located at regional distances from both the Soviet test site in E. Kazakhstan and the seismically active Tien Shan area. The study is based on 3 spectral ratio discriminants: Pg/Lg spectral ratios, Pg and Lg frequency band ratios, and vertical/horizontal spectral ratios. Both short-period and broad-band data are used. The Pg/Lg ratio is an effective discriminant between 3 and 12 Hz, and the vertical/horizontal ratios perform similarly to it, although in the case of Lg more study is needed to explain the value of this ratio. The Pg and Lg frequency band ratios were ineffective discriminants. The study attempts to identify the effects of propagation path and event depth on the discriminants. It appears that the spectral ratio discriminant remains effective for 2 earthquakes observed along paths close to the path from the test site to WMQ. In the scale of kilometers, event depth does control the Pg and Lg spectral ratios, but it is unlikely that this effect is observable in the scale of meters. <i>Keywords: Seismic data discrimination</i></p>			
14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES
seismic discrimination regional phases			58
			16. PRICE CODE
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT
Unclassified		Unclassified	Unclassified
		20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	
		SAR	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regional spectral discriminants have been the subject of several intensive studies in recent years due to the establishment of in-country seismic monitoring system in the Soviet Union. Moreover, with the advance made in high dynamic range, broad-band instruments, these spectral discriminants may then be quantified. This study will analyze the discriminatory capabilities of these spectral discriminants using seismic data collected from a system of state-of-the-art seismic instruments installed in western China. The proximity of this station (WMQ) to the Soviet test sites in E. Kazakh and the active earthquake zones in the Tien Shan region makes it an excellent source of data for such a regional discrimination study.

Three spectral ratio discriminants are studied, namely Pg and Lg spectral phase ratioing, Pg and Lg frequency band ratioing, and three-component spectral ratioing. These discriminants are evaluated using a similar data set analyzed under a standard windowing and processing criterion. The Pg and Lg spectral ratio performs very well in discriminating between earthquakes and explosions between the frequency range of 3 to 12 Hz. The Pg and Lg frequency band ratioing does not show to be a promising discriminant, but it provides insight to the understanding of spectra characteristics for earthquakes and explosions. The three component analysis performs very similarly to the Pg and Lg spectral ratio discriminant, but the unpredicted low level of the ratios between horizontal and vertical components of Lg for explosions warrants further analysis.

Various parameters that might have influenced the characteristics of the spectral ratios have been investigated, including depth effect, frequency effect, and path effect. By studying spectral ratios for earthquakes traversing along paths similar to those of the explosions, it was concluded that the spectral ratio discriminant remains effective. Although

it is discovered that the depth of the seismic events has a controlling effect in the level of the Lg and Pg spectral ratios in a kilometer scale, it is unlikely that such effect is observable in the meter scale. This study has shown that in Central Eurasia, using events in and around the station WMQ, the spectral discriminant appears to be an effective one. To further establish this discriminant, studies need to be performed in regions with an abundance of ground-truth geological information, thus allowing an in-depth understanding of the mechanism underlying such discriminant.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

With the increasing network capability of the seismic monitoring system in the Soviet Union, regional discrimination has become a very important issue. High frequency studies of regional phases have demonstrated the significance of high frequency regional discriminants and revealed some very important observations. The various studies of Bakun and Johnson (1908), Murphy and Bennett (1982), Bennett and Murphy (1989), and Taylor (1988) have found certain regional spectral ratio discriminants to be effective under particular geological criteria and presented opposing analysis for such a discriminant in other criteria. The underlying mechanism for such a discriminant to perform satisfactorily remains unknown and may be attributed to our lack of understanding towards the generation of the Lg phase. Leading hypotheses of Lg generation include $P-S$ conversion at the free surface, scattering of body wave energy, and generation of the non-geometrical S^* phase (Gutowski *et al.*, 1984).

Short period regional discrimination relies heavily on regional phases Pn , Pg , and Lg which are well excited at regional distances of up to approximately 25° . For small to moderate sized seismic events, these phases are best observed on short-period and broad-band seismographs. It is through the advance made in high dynamic range, broad-band instruments that these discriminants can be tested. In particular, this study will focus on investigating the ability to discriminate between earthquakes and nuclear explosions through spectral ratio analysis of these regional phases in central Eurasia. The excitation and propagation parameters of the regional crustal phases will be quantified. Geological assessments of the regions of interest will aid in the interpretation of regional variations of crustal propagation characteristics.

To further exploit the capability of the regional seismic phases Pn , Pg , Sn , and Lg in discrimination problems, it is important to understand fully the excitation and propagation of these phases across a wide variety of tectonic and geological regions for quarry blasts,

earthquakes and nuclear explosions. Discriminants and yield estimation corrections may not be applied uniformly without regional constraints, owing to the effect of varying site geologies and propagation paths. In addition to reflecting the source characteristics, the discriminants may also be affected by regional variations in attenuation properties, and in crustal structure between each seismic source and the various receivers. The path attenuation effects are crucial in seismic yield estimation since the amplitudes are heavily dependent on the efficiency of the propagation of the high-frequency regional phases. Propagation of regional phases generated by seismic events has been widely studied to measure their attenuation properties for corrections to yield estimates. In particular, Lg is most commonly used to investigate various regions of the world due to its efficient propagation at regional distances (e.g., Nuttli, 1973, 1980; Gupta and Burnetti, 1980; Hasegawa, 1985; Campillo *et al.*, 1985). In most of these studies, the attenuation effects have been estimated by assuming some preferred forms of the geometrical spreading-dispersion effect and fitting $Q(f)$. In recent studies by Nuttli (1986a,b), very different attenuation corrections are required for estimating the yields of NTS and East Kazakh events from regional data.

In general, there is little agreement among the various investigators as to the value of relative amplitudes and frequency contents of crustal arrivals for discriminating between earthquakes, quarry blasts, and nuclear explosions. The dominant phase velocities of Lg have been found to depend on the source depth (Barley, 1979), and Lg excitation is observed to decrease with increasing source depth compared to P (Noponen and Burnetti, 1980). Murphy and Bennett (1982) claim that at UBO, explosion spectra have a lower frequency content than earthquake spectra. Recently, the implications of high-frequency regional propagation characteristics of various crustal phases with regards to detectability and discrimination capability for decoupled nuclear explosions by a hypothetical internal network in the USSR were discussed by Evernden *et al.* (1986). Their study was based on certain assumptions of the frequency dependence of Q and assumptions of the source spectral slope,

and it may therefore be limited in bandwidth and geographical coverage.

Digital seismic data from the China Digital Seismic Network (CDSN) is utilized to study the regional propagation of high-frequency seismic phases in Eurasia at relatively close-range distances. This study utilizes high-frequency and broad-band seismic data from the station WMQ in Wulumuqi, Xianjiang, China belonging to the CDSN. These instruments yield high quality regional phase data of up to 20 Hz, allowing us to perform studies in using both spectral ratio and phase ratio methods for the different bands of recordings. The deployment of the CDSN network has made it possible to study the propagation of regional phases in Eurasia at distances of less than 15° (Fig. 1). The proximity of these stations to the test sites in the Soviet Union and China has provided data with excellently recorded P_n , S_n , Lg , and Pg at regional distances. These data constitute an excellent database for research towards understanding the underlying properties governing the excitation and propagation of seismic waves in the stable and tectonic regions of Eurasia.

Events used for P/Lg in Central Eurasia

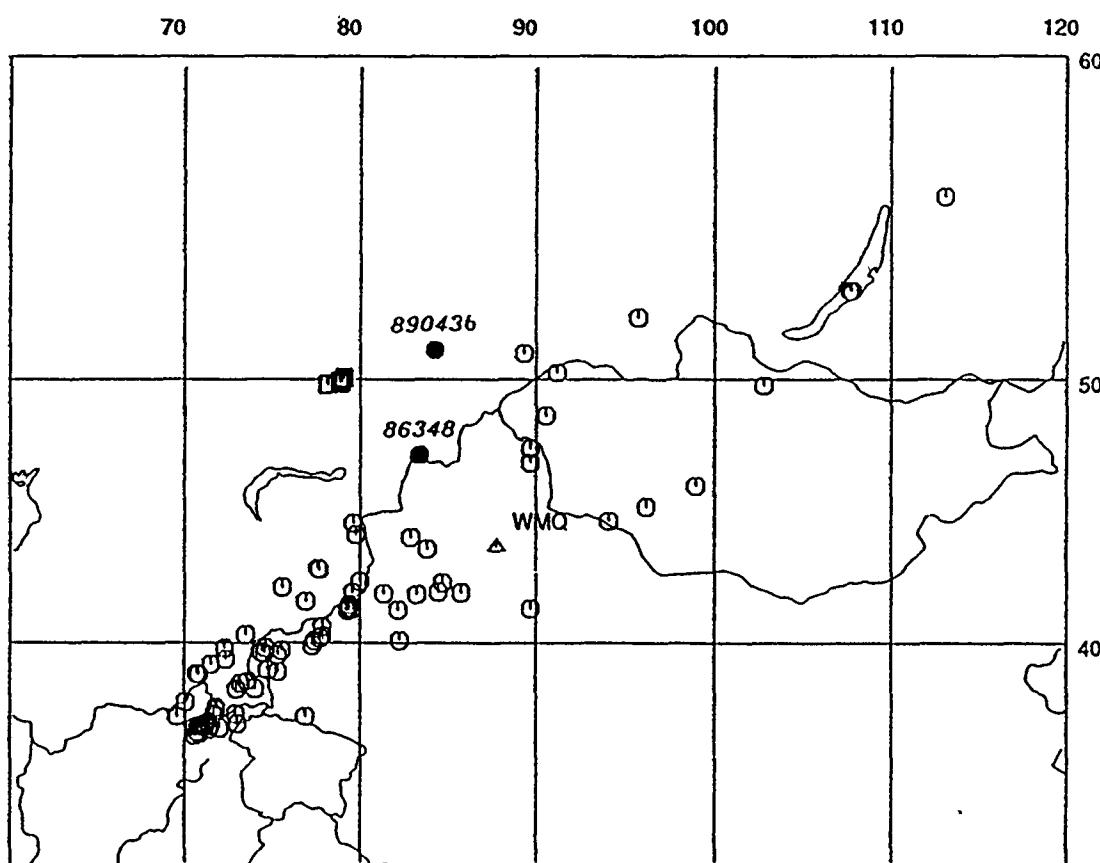


Figure 1. Map showing the locations of the earthquakes (circles) and E. Kazakh explosions (squares) used in this study. The location of station WMQ is also indicated. The two events indicated by 89043b and 86348 in solid circles are within 20° azimuth from WMQ.

2.0 DATA ANALYSIS

Seismic event discrimination based on spectral signatures has been applied to regional data recorded at stations of the CDSN during 1987. The data base consisted of 26 explosions and 101 earthquakes (Table 1) recorded at the station WMQ of the CDSN with paths traversing the East Kazakh and Tien Shan regions. The locations of the station WMQ and of the seismic events are shown in Figure 1. In this study, the regional phases Pn , Pg , and Lg are emphasized in the analysis. Data are retrieved from the vertical component of the short-period and broad-band channel of the CDSN station. In order to study the frequency distribution of the various phases, we have performed a band-pass filtering of the data (Fig. 2a). For this, we have used an infinite impulse response 3-pole butterworth filter in order to be able to band-pass the entire waveform. The filtered, short-period data indicate that there are Pg -phase signals above the noise level at a pass-band of as high as 16-20 Hz, whereas Lg -phase signals are observed up to the 8-16 Hz pass-band for explosions, and there is much lower frequency energy for earthquakes.

Pg and Lg arrival times are determined and windowed from 2 seconds before the picked arrival times for a total of 10 and 50 seconds respectively (Figure 2b). The noise is determined as 20 seconds before the arrival of each phase. A 10% cosine taper is applied to the beginning and end of the segmented waveforms. The windowed data segments are Fourier transformed into the spectral domain. The spectral ratios are obtained by taking the geometric means at a particular pass-band for each phase and then dividing by the means of each other phase. Only data with a signal-to-noise power ratio of over 2 for both Pg and Lg phases are used in the study. Spectral ratios are obtained for frequency bands 0.2-0.5 Hz, 0.5-2 Hz, 2-4 Hz, 4-6 Hz, 6-8 Hz for the broad-band data; for the short-period data, spectral ratios are obtained for frequency bands 2-4 Hz, 4-6 Hz, 6-8 Hz, 8.-16 Hz, 16-24 Hz. Time-domain measurements have been performed for a few test cases and have been found to produce a negligible difference from those obtained from the spectral method.

TABLE 1

EXPLOSIONS

EVENT	Mon	DDYEARDOY	Origin time	Lat	Lon	Dep	Mb	Dist
87071a	Mar 12, 1987	071	01:57:17.2	49.94	78.82	000	5.5	8.6
87093a	Apr 03, 1987	093	01:17:08.0	49.93	78.83	000	6.2	8.6
87157a	Jun 06, 1987	157	02:37:07.0	49.86	78.11	000	5.3	8.9
87171	Jun 20, 1987	171	00:53:04.8	49.91	78.73	000	6.1	8.6
87198a	Jul 17, 1987	198	01:17:07.0	49.80	78.11	000	5.8	8.9
87214a	Aug 02, 1987	214	00:58:06.8	49.88	78.92	000	5.9	8.5
87319a	Nov 15, 1987	319	03:31:06.7	49.87	78.79	000	6.0	8.6
87347a	Dec 13, 1987	347	03:21:04.8	49.99	78.84	000	6.1	8.6
87354	Dec 20, 1987	354	02:55:06.7	49.83	78.00	000	4.8	9.0
87361a	Dec 27, 1987	361	03:05:04.7	49.86	78.76	000	6.1	8.6
88037a	Feb 06, 1988	037	04:19:07.5	49.80	78.06	000	4.8	8.9
88037a	Feb 06, 1988	037	04:19:11.1	49.80	78.06	000	4.8	8.9
88044	Feb 13, 1988	044	03:05:05.9	49.95	78.91	000	6.1	8.6
88094	Apr 03, 1988	094	01:33:05.8	49.92	78.95	000	6.1	8.5
88125	May 04, 1988	125	00:57:06.8	49.93	78.77	000	6.1	8.6
88166	Jun 14, 1988	166	02:27:06.4	50.05	79.01	000	5.0	8.6
88258	Sep 14, 1988	258	03:59:57.4	49.82	78.80	000	6.1	8.6
88270	Sep 26, 1988	270	07:45:00.0	49.90	78.80	000	0.0	8.6
88292	Oct 18, 1988	292	03:40:06.4	49.87	78.08	000	4.9	8.9
88317	Nov 12, 1988	317	03:30:03.7	50.08	78.99	000	5.3	8.6
88328	Nov 23, 1988	328	03:57:06.7	49.82	78.07	000	5.3	8.9
88352	Dec 17, 1988	352	04:18:06.9	49.89	78.93	000	5.9	8.5
89043	Feb 12, 1989	043	04:15:06.8	49.93	78.74	000	5.9	8.7
89048	Feb 17, 1989	048	04:01:06.9	49.87	78.08	000	5.0	8.9
89189	Jul 08, 1989	189	03:46:57.6	49.87	78.82	000	5.6	8.6
89245	Sep 02, 1989	245	04:16:57.2	50.02	79.05	000	5.0	8.6

EARTHQUAKES (all depths)

EVENT	Mon	DDYEARDOY	Origin time	Lat	Lon	Dep	Mb	Dist
86249	Sep 06, 1986	249	15:31:01.8	36.41	71.33	084	5.0	14.5
86253b	Sep 10, 1986	253	13:46:15.3	36.89	76.81	033	4.8	10.8
86256b	Sep 13, 1986	256	14:14:54.3	36.44	70.77	200	4.9	14.9
86260	Sep 17, 1986	260	12:08:09.4	37.29	71.73	120	5.5	13.8
86274	Oct 01, 1986	274	11:11:42.1	41.68	76.86	010	4.8	8.3
86276	Oct 03, 1986	276	07:48:37.0	39.47	75.29	014	4.7	10.2
86277a	Oct 04, 1986	277	04:29:57.1	42.40	84.63	033	4.0	2.7
86308	Nov 04, 1986	308	16:19:15.1	50.88	89.27	010	5.3	7.1
86316b	Nov 12, 1986	316	11:32:51.5	44.81	94.04	033	4.3	4.7
86324a	Nov 20, 1986	324	02:40:25.6	42.04	84.39	050	4.6	3.0
86339	Dec 05, 1986	339	10:34:34.0	39.87	77.21	033	4.4	8.8
86348	Dec 14, 1986	348	03:19:16.7	47.31	83.31	033	5.0	4.7

87005	Jan 05,1987005	22:52:46.5	41.96	81.32	017	5.9	5.0
87024a	Jan 24,1987024	08:09:21.3	41.53	79.32	029	5.9	6.6
87024e	Jan 24,1987024	08:59:33.8	41.25	79.20	033	4.7	6.8
87024g	Jan 24,1987024	13:40:40.3	41.44	79.25	033	5.2	6.7
87024i	Jan 24,1987024	14:45:57.3	41.38	79.51	033	4.4	6.5
87025a	Jan 25,1987025	06:10:56.3	41.35	79.30	033	4.5	6.7
87025b	Jan 25,1987025	22:49:12.2	41.34	79.30	033	4.5	6.7
87026b	Jan 26,1987026	05:28:40.8	41.32	79.20	033	4.5	6.8
87028a	Jan 28,1987028	00:01:39.9	41.33	79.21	033	4.5	6.7
87028b	Jan 28,1987028	12:12:15.9	45.36	96.14	033	5.1	6.2
87037	Feb 06,1987037	21:22:15.2	36.89	69.55	033	4.3	15.5
87045	Feb 14,1987045	23:03:13.9	41.33	79.51	033	4.7	6.5
87054b	Feb 23,1987054	22:31:05.7	41.36	79.31	033	4.6	6.7
87060c	Mar 01,1987060	17:59:10.0	49.78	102.75	024	4.8	11.9
87062b	Mar 03,1987062	09:41:33.6	41.29	79.30	033	5.1	6.7
87094	Apr 04,1987094	17:45:13.3	42.45	79.95	033	4.1	5.8
87120a	Apr 30,1987120	05:17:37.0	39.76	74.57	008	5.7	10.6
87125c	May 05,1987125	15:40:47.5	36.48	70.67	202	5.8	14.9
87130d	May 10,1987130	20:19:33.1	44.29	79.74	033	4.5	5.8
87159b	Jun 08,1987159	13:30:32.8	39.75	74.62	010	5.1	10.6
87181	Jun 30,1987181	01:05:29.6	36.59	71.07	243	4.8	14.6
87217a	Aug 05,1987217	10:24:21.0	41.32	82.13	033	4.8	4.8
87218	Aug 06,1987218	09:06:48.3	38.07	72.98	142	4.8	12.5
87230	Aug 18,1987230	02:14:14.2	36.45	71.11	207	4.9	14.7
87246b	Sep 03,1987246	09:08:11.7	38.78	75.29	033	4.8	10.6
87259	Sep 16,1987259	17:57:26.4	52.09	95.70	033	4.8	9.9
87261b	Sep 18,1987261	21:58:41.5	47.02	89.66	033	5.3	3.5
87263a	Sep 20,1987263	03:54:06.5	42.92	77.62	041	4.6	7.4
87276b	Oct 03,1987276	11:00:05.2	36.45	71.44	095	5.9	14.4
87289c	Oct 16,1987289	18:30:51.3	44.20	82.84	056	4.7	3.5
87351b	Dec 17,1987351	12:17:25.6	41.94	83.20	052	5.1	3.8
87355a	Dec 21,1987355	04:28:23.5	38.70	70.67	015	4.8	13.8
87356a	Dec 22,1987356	00:16:39.0	41.36	89.64	021	5.9	2.8
87358b	Dec 24,1987358	18:28:29.2	52.98	107.73	033	4.5	16.1
87358c	Dec 24,1987358	19:29:32.9	52.97	107.61	033	4.4	16.0
88002b	Jan 02,1988002	22:02:36.0	40.06	77.34	033	4.9	8.6
88005a	Jan 05,1988005	06:23:14.7	38.06	74.03	165	4.9	11.8
88006c	Jan 06,1988006	15:31:10.4	39.66	75.48	012	5.1	10.0
88009	Jan 09,1988009	03:55:05.3	39.09	71.50	033	5.4	13.0
88013	Jan 13,1988013	21:23:11.8	36.45	70.85	192	4.8	14.8
88017	Jan 17,1988017	03:36:05.0	36.11	70.80	116	4.9	15.1
88018	Jan 18,1988018	09:55:40.7	36.43	70.51	211	4.9	15.1
88019	Jan 19,1988019	02:29:16.7	36.44	70.84	198	4.9	14.8
88022	Jan 22,1988022	18:48:10.8	41.99	79.52	033	4.6	6.3
88024a	Jan 24,1988024	16:49:22.1	41.44	79.36	033	4.8	6.6
88039	Feb 08,1988039	17:49:19.8	43.73	83.76	010	4.3	2.9

88061a	Mar 01,1988061	15:45:39.1	40.19	77.64	062	4.2	8.3	
88075b	Mar 15,1988075	15:55:24.3	42.21	75.51	033	4.5	9.1	
88085a	Mar 25,1988085	02:07:55.8	44.71	79.60	033	4.5	5.9	
88086b	Mar 26,1988086	22:58:42.8	38.31	73.23	121	5.7	12.2	
88092b	Apr 01,1988092	01:27:16.0	47.53	89.64	010	4.6	4.0	
88114a	Apr 23,1988114	05:42:59.7	36.56	73.01	038	4.8	13.4	
88123a	May 02,1988123	02:13:25.6	40.10	82.23	010	4.9	5.5	
88146a	May 25,1988146	00:05:23.4	40.63	77.76	034	4.9	8.0	
88146b	May 25,1988146	18:21:58.0	42.01	85.69	022	5.2	2.3	
88146c	May 25,1988146	22:52:55.4	46.14	98.98	033	4.1	8.3	
88155c	Jun 03,1988155	18:26:06.7	36.26	70.70	130	5.1	15.0	
88156b	Jun 04,1988156	07:24:22.0	55.94	113.09	033	4.8	20.2	
88160	Jun 08,1988160	02:16:19.1	40.27	77.76	010	4.4	8.2	
88164a	Jun 12,1988164	07:17:07.1	38.84	74.72	025	4.5	10.9	
88169	Jun 17,1988169	13:30:43.9	42.97	77.51	024	5.3	7.5	
88171	Jun 19,1988171	22:21:02	0	38.40	73.58	131	4.5	11.9
88182c	Jun 30,1988182	15:25:15.5	50.23	91.14	033	5.0	6.8	
88202	Jul 20,1988202	06:20:50.7	37.02	72.92	035	5.5	13.1	
88205c	Jul 23,1988205	07:38:09.9	48.72	90.51	018	5.5	5.3	
88213	Jul 31,1988213	22:33:30.8	36.63	71.23	092	4.5	14.5	
88214	Aug 01,1988214	23:39:18.5	36.50	70.75	193	4.3	14.9	
88216a	Aug 03,1988216	05:43:14.8	36.48	70.97	202	5.4	14.7	
88216b	Aug 03,1988216	12:04:17.3	36.44	70.93	206	4.7	14.8	
88219d	Aug 06,1988219	09:03:21.9	36.49	71.06	194	6.0	14.7	
88223a	Aug 10,1988223	10:59:05.2	36.98	71.62	126	4.8	14.0	
88223b	Aug 10,1988223	20:29:48.8	36.50	71.14	069	4.7	14.6	
88224	Aug 11,1988224	05:00:09.7	37.50	70.01	033	5.1	14.8	
88225	Aug 12,1988225	18:58:40.3	40.32	73.48	033	5.2	11.1	
88230	Aug 17,1988230	14:56:31.3	39.31	72.34	030	4.9	12.3	
88253a	Sep 09,1988253	21:12:36.2	36.45	71.37	101	5.4	14.5	
88253b	Sep 09,1988253	21:19:34.1	36.37	71.98	199	4.2	14.1	
88267b	Sep 23,1988267	04:46:40.4	39.55	74.55	033	5.3	10.7	
88269a	Sep 25,1988269	19:41:11.3	36.22	70.62	159	4.7	15.1	
88269c	Sep 25,1988269	21:28:04.8	36.40	70.73	213	5.5	14.9	
88270b	Sep 26,1988270	07:17:00.1	36.31	71.38	107	5.6	14.6	
88277	Oct 03,1988277	00:24:49.8	38.68	70.77	033	4.8	13.7	
88280a	Oct 06,1988280	13:10:54.4	39.60	74.40	033	5.0	10.8	
88280b	Oct 06,1988280	18:22:55.5	39.59	74.36	033	4.9	10.8	
88295a	Oct 21,1988295	01:55:20.3	39.75	72.28	033	4.4	12.2	
88295b	Oct 21,1988295	18:10:48.1	36.66	71.31	188	4.2	14.4	
88300	Oct 26,1988300	02:15:12.8	36.49	70.87	220	5.0	14.8	
88332a	Nov 27,1988332	01:16:21.7	36.04	70.54	092	4.8	15.3	
89043b	Feb 12,1989043	23:49:17.0	51.00	84.17	033	4.6	7.6	

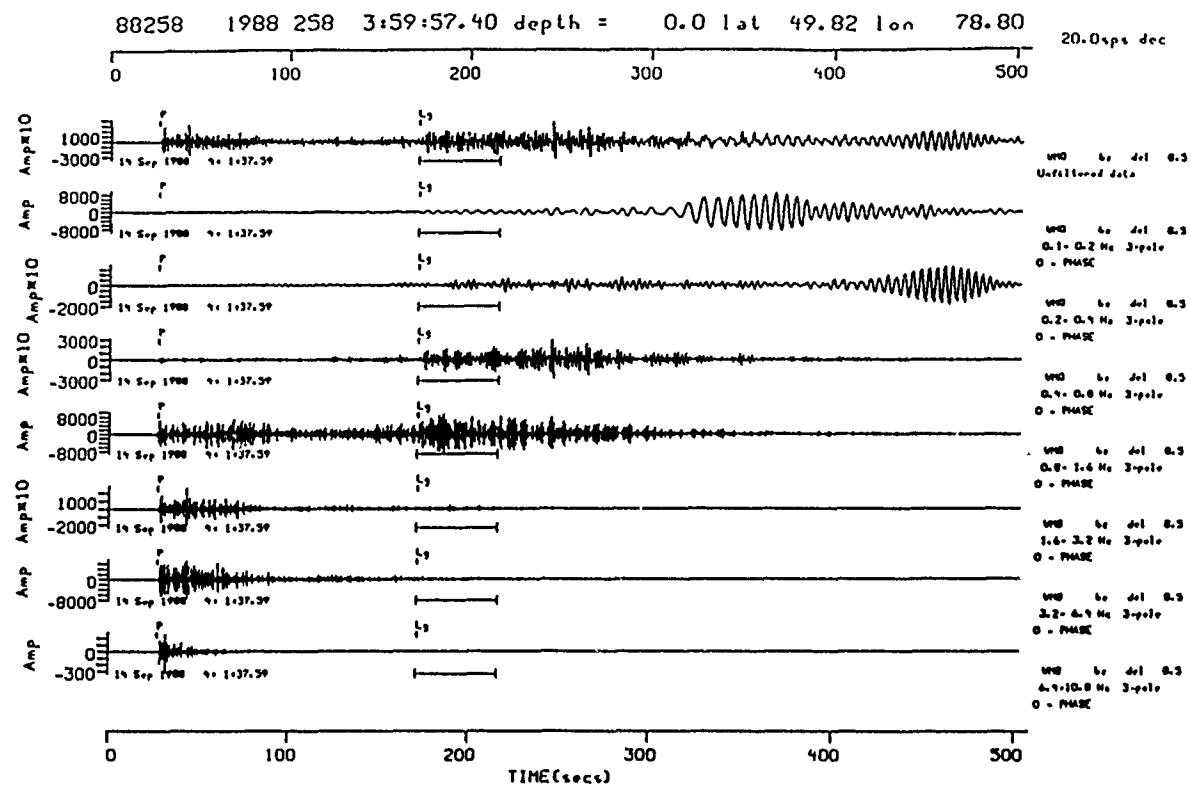


Figure 2a. Band pass filtering of an explosion in E. Kazakh recorded at WMQ. An infinite impulse response 3-pole butterworth filter is used. The top trace is the unfiltered short-period vertical data. The frequency bands are 0.1-0.2 Hz, 0.2-0.4 Hz, 0.4-0.8 Hz, 0.8-1.6 Hz, 1.6-3.2 Hz, 3.2-6.4 Hz, and 6.4-10.0 Hz.

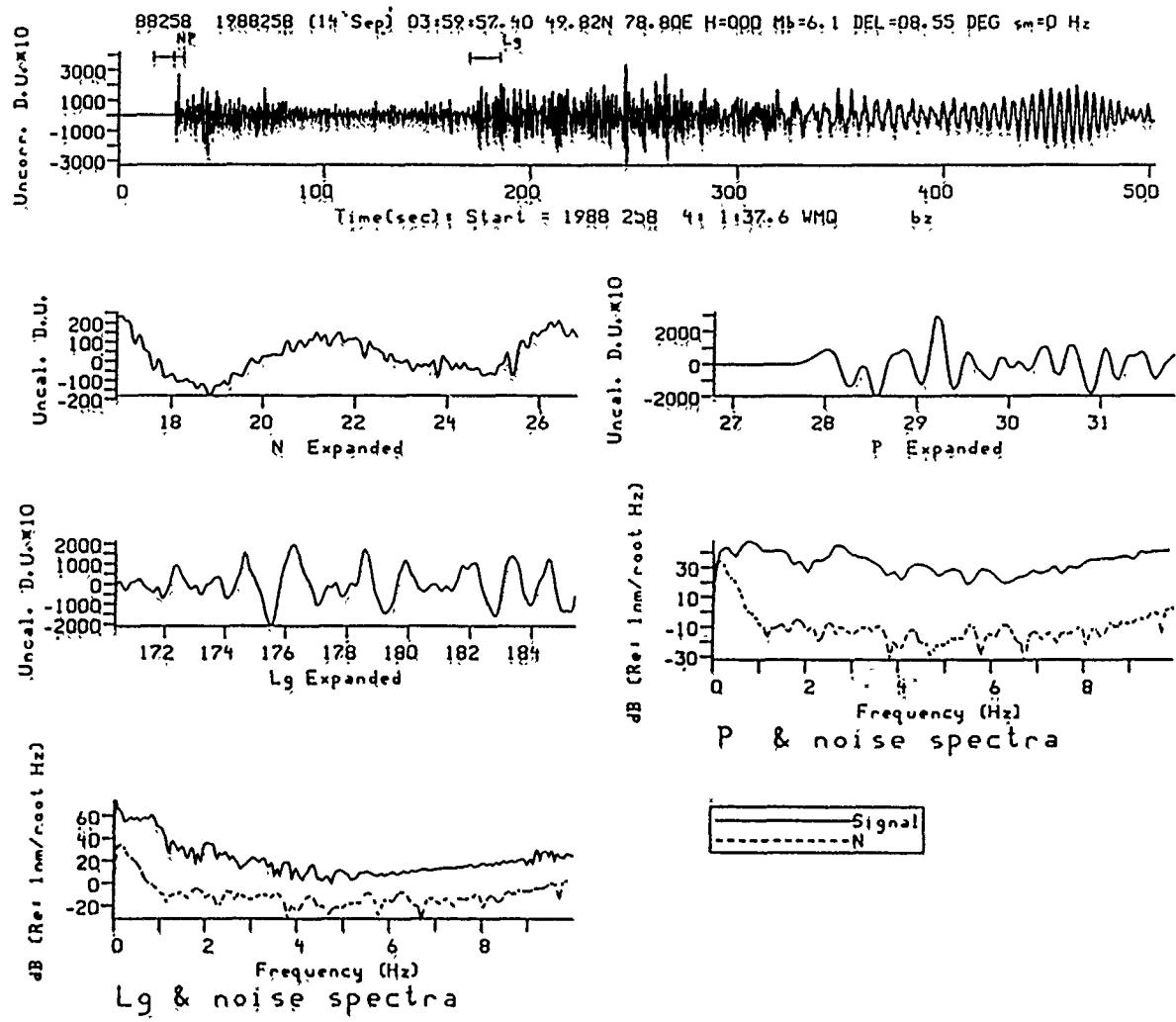


Figure 2b. Processing of Pg and Lg spectral ratio. The signal and noise level for Pg and Lg are shown in the lower two panels. Only data with a signal-noise power ratio of over 2 for both Pg and Lg are used.

3.0 RESULTS

Guided by the band-pass filtering analysis which indicates the broad-band characteristics of the seismic signals, we are able to design the spectral ratio discrimination study in the E. Kazakh/Tien Shan region with the appropriate frequency bands and phases. Three discriminants will be tested in this study. First, the spectral ratios between Pg and Lg phases will be examined for each frequency band. Second, band-ratioing between two frequency bands will be performed to Pg and Lg phases individually. Third, the ratioing between the vertical and horizontal component Pg and Lg phases will be studied. There are various parameters that may affect the analysis, and these will be studied in the phase ratioing study.

3.1 Pg and Lg Spectral Phase Ratioing

The phases that are used in the spectral phase-ratioing consist of Pg and Lg . The bandpasses used range from 1-2 Hz to 18-20 Hz for the short-period data and from 0.5-1 to 8-10 for the broad-band data. Examples of the ratios between short-period and broad-band Pg and Lg plotted against the body wave magnitudes as obtained from the NEIS for various band-passes are shown in Figures 3 and 4. It may be observed from the plots that there is distinct separation between the earthquake and explosion populations for the various passbands. The Pg/Lg ratios for explosions are over an order of magnitude larger than those for earthquakes. Figure 4 shows that there is no distinct difference in spectral ratios between two groups of earthquakes that traverse paths that are of different azimuths from WMQ.

Spectral ratios between Pg and Lg plotted against the frequency for the short-period and broad-band data are shown in Figures 5 and 6. For short-period data, it is observed that within the frequency range of 2 to 14 Hz, the spectral ratios between Pg and Lg phases are capable of discriminating between earthquakes and explosions. In the case of broad-band data, there is separation between earthquakes and explosions from 4 to 10 Hz. A histogram

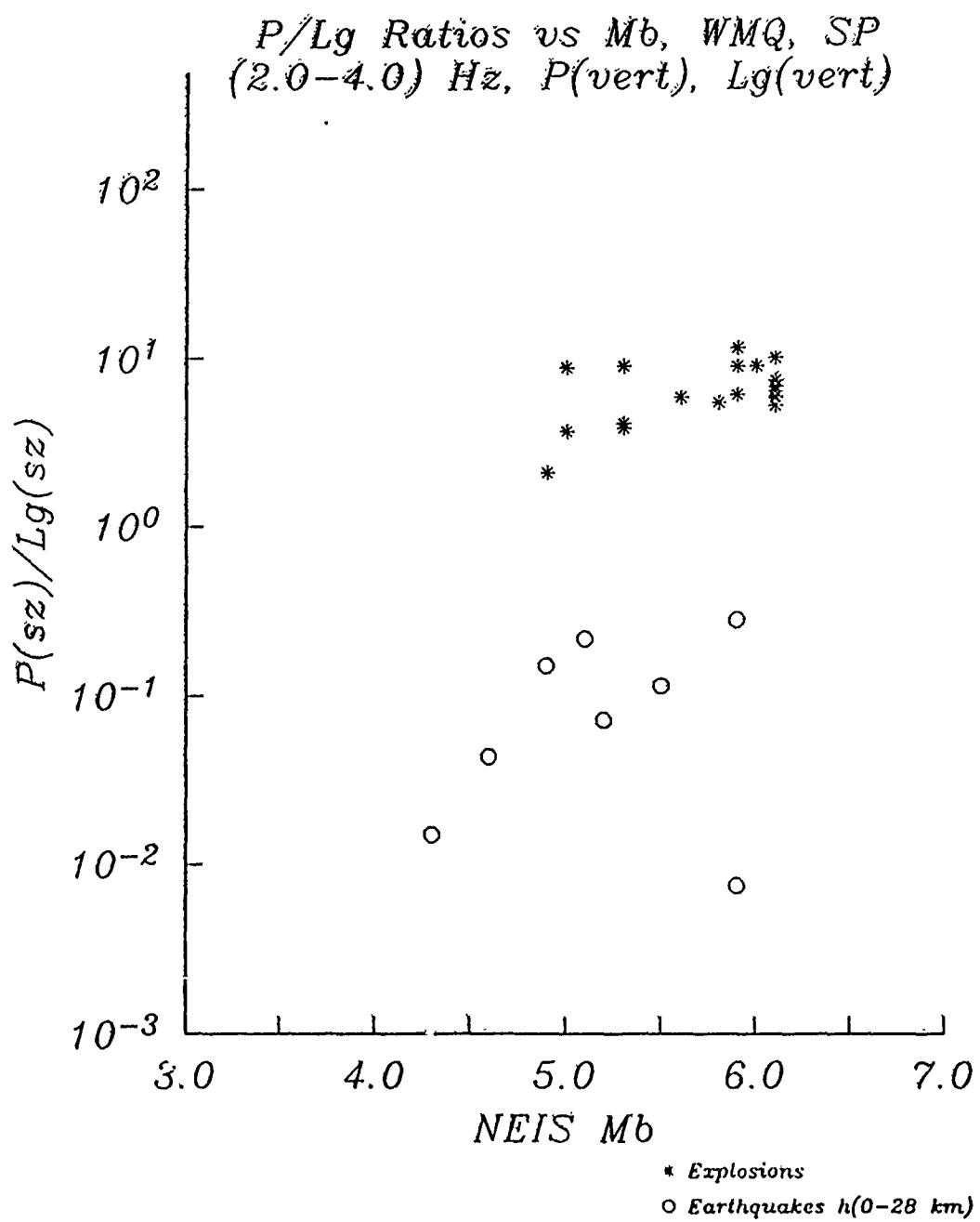


Figure 3a. Spectral ratios of P_g/Lg vs. mb for 2.0-4.0 Hz using short-period vertical component WMQ data. The earthquake and explosion populations are well separated.

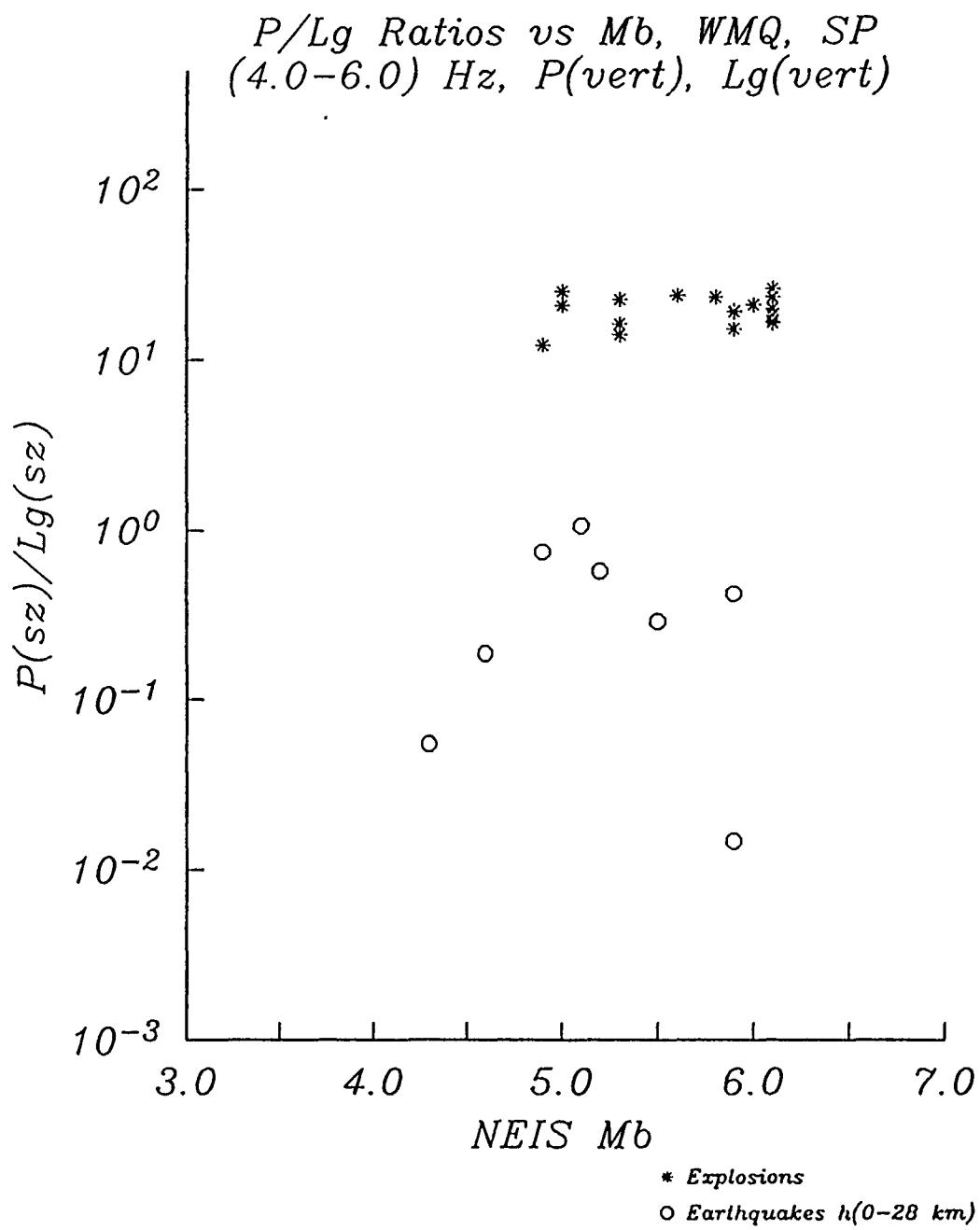


Figure 3b. Spectral ratios of Pg/Lg vs. mb for 4.0-6.0 Hz using short-period vertical component WMQ data. The earthquake and explosion populations are well separated.

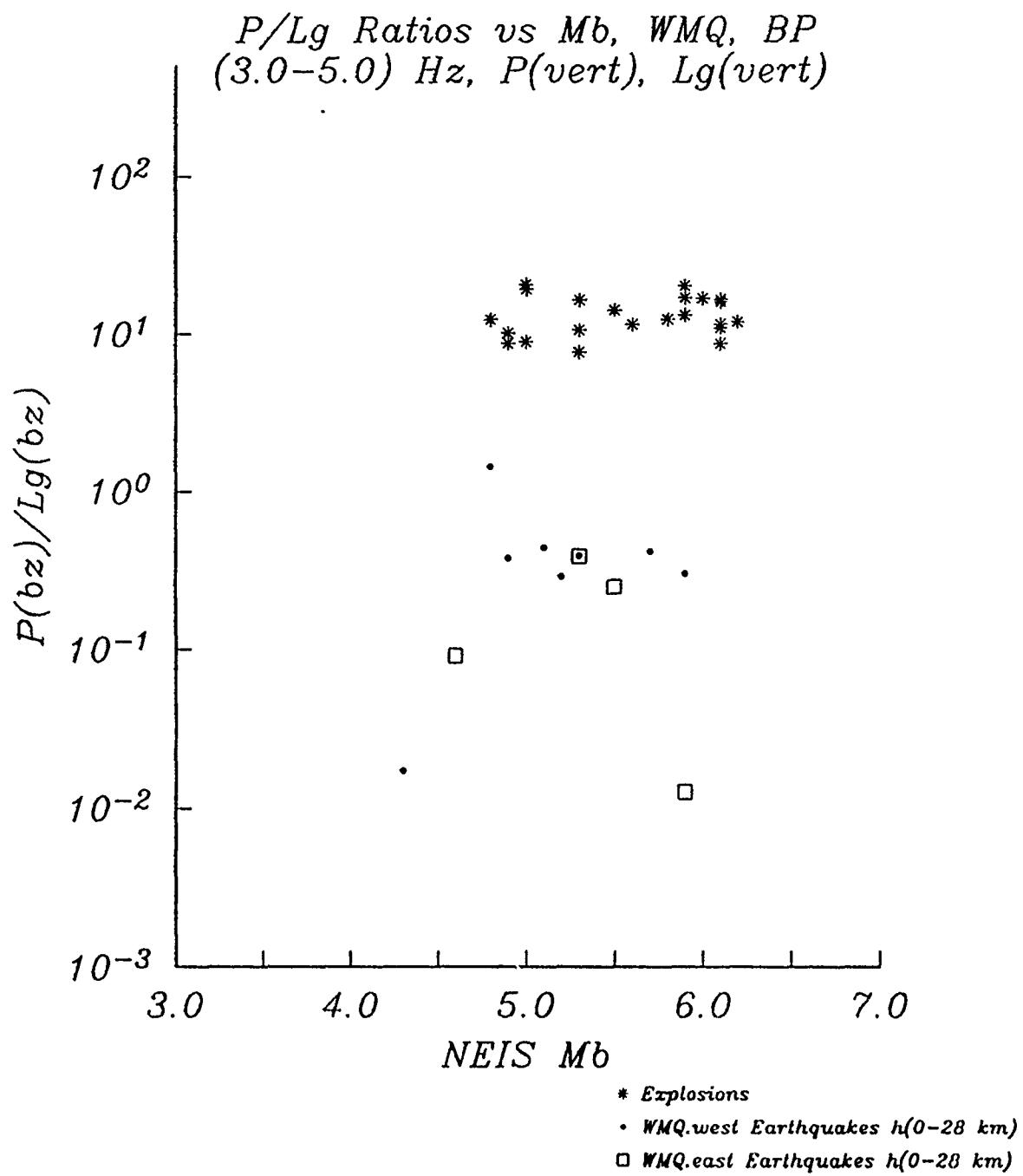


Figure 4a. Spectral ratios of Pg/Lg vs. mb for 3.0-5.0 Hz using broad-band vertical component WMQ data. The earthquakes are indicated as west of WMQ or east of WMQ. The earthquake and explosion populations are well separated.

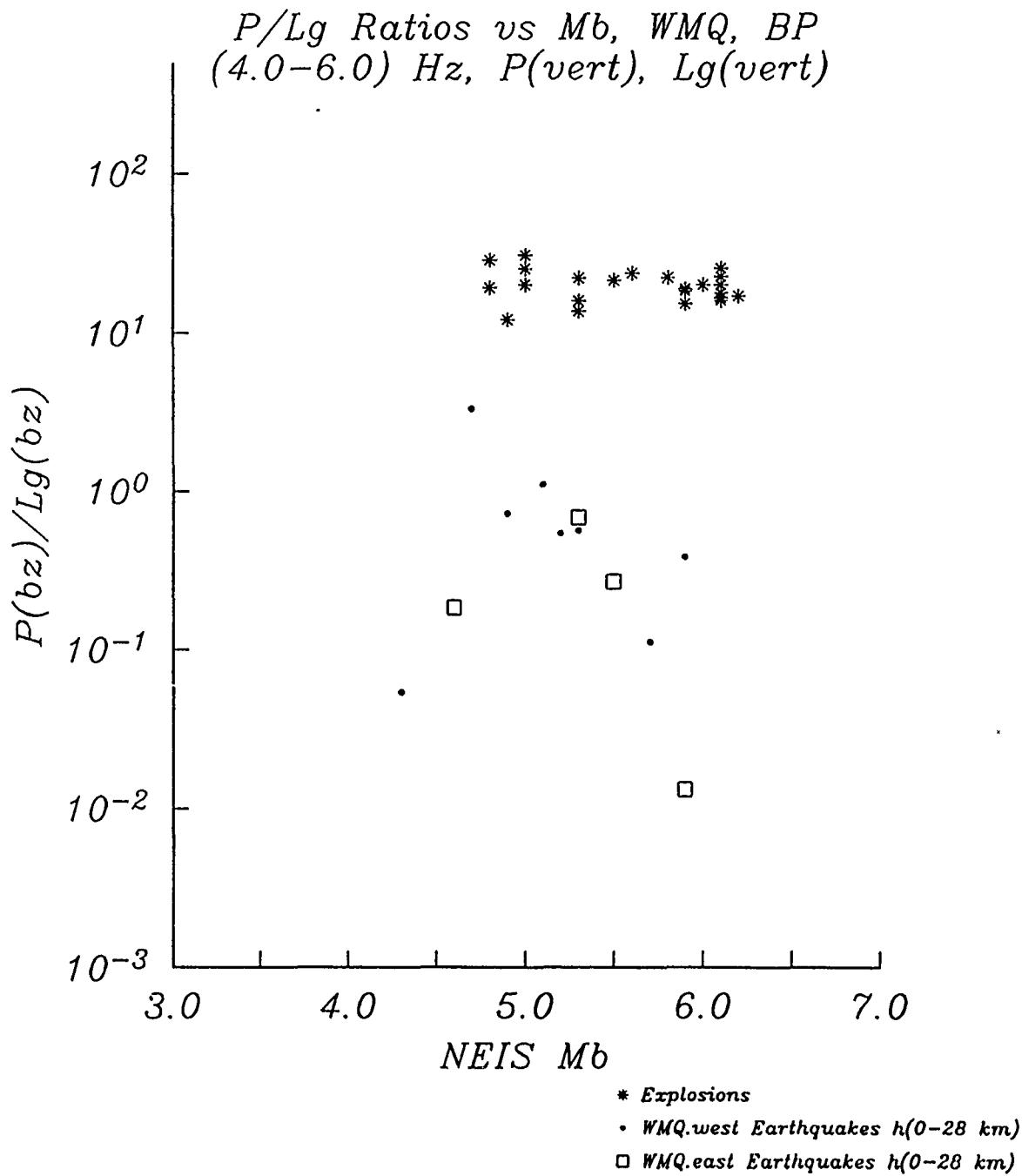


Figure 4b. Spectral ratios of Pg/Lg vs. mb for 4.0-6.0 Hz using broad-band vertical component WMQ data. The earthquakes are indicated as west of WMQ or east of WMQ. The earthquake and explosion populations are well separated.

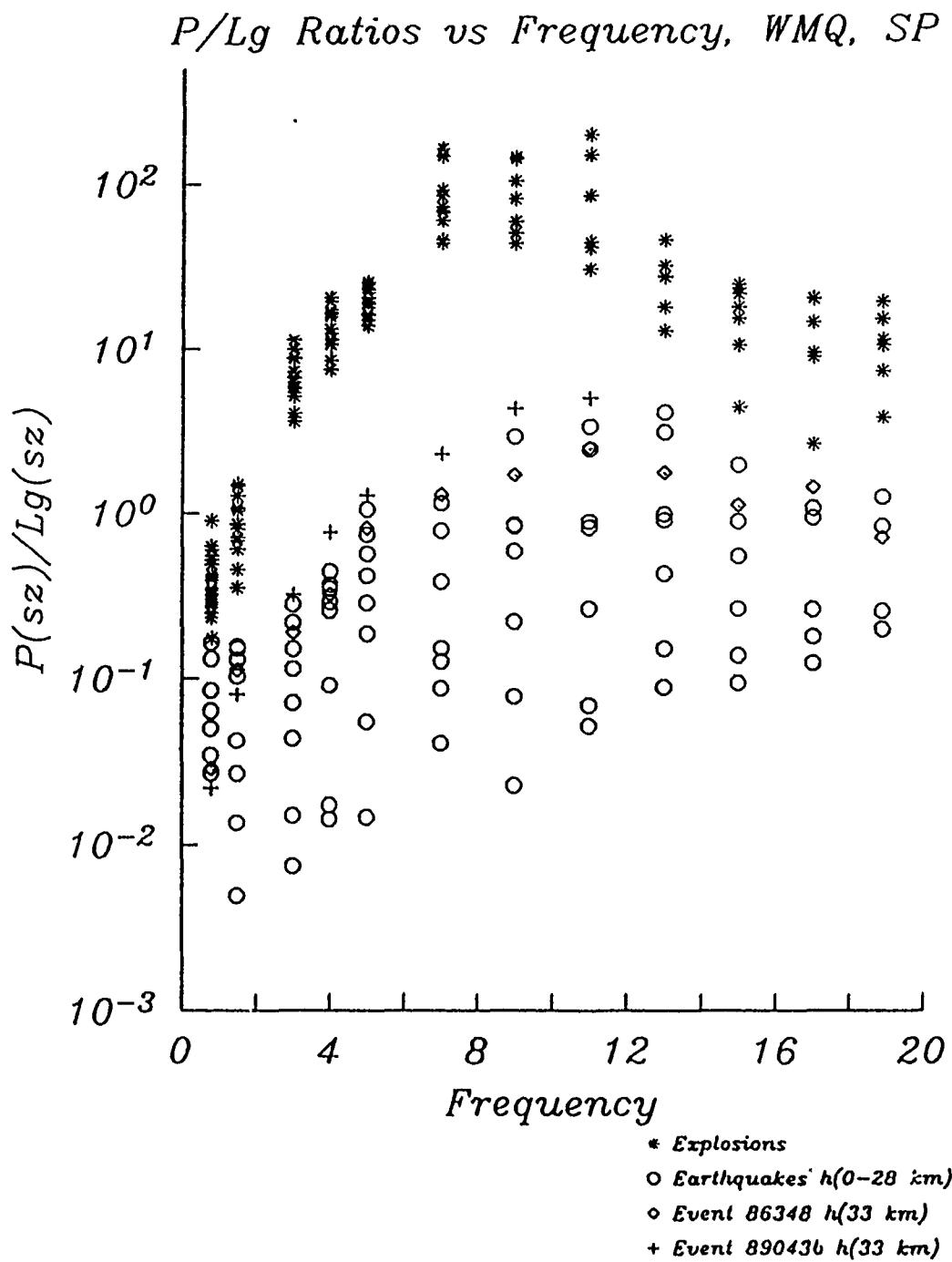


Figure 5. Plot of Pg/Lg spectral ratios versus frequency for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ. The two events within 20° azimuth from WMQ are indicated as pluses and diamonds.

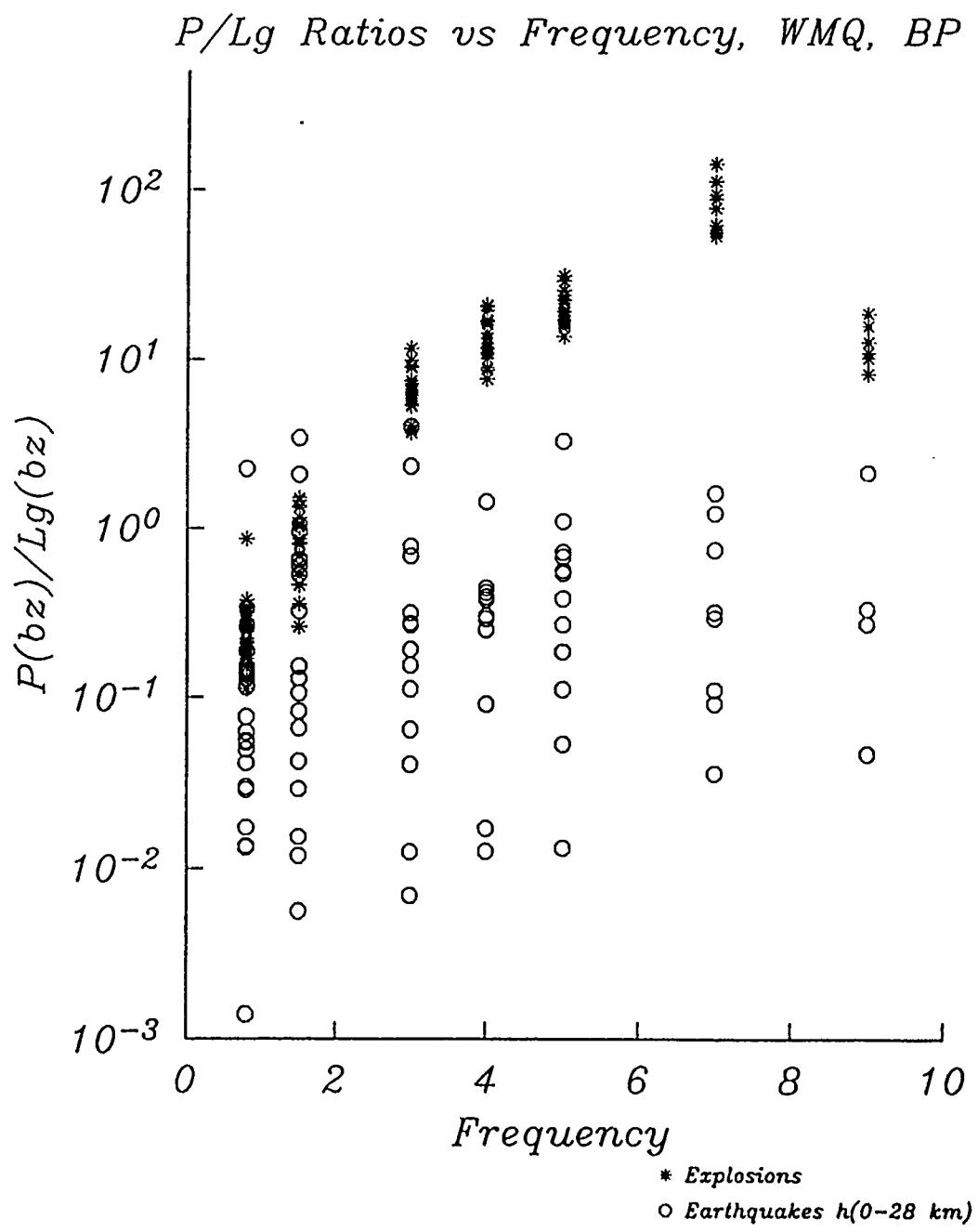


Figure 6. Plot of Pg/Lg spectral ratios versus frequency for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component broad-band data of WMQ.

plotted in Figure 7 shows that at a center frequency of 7 Hz, the earthquake and explosion populations are distinctly separable from each other.

3.2 Pg and Lg Frequency Band-Ratioing

It has also been noticed that earthquakes and explosions have different energy content at different frequency bands. These variations in frequency bands directly contribute to the possible discriminant using regional phases. In order to further study the frequency content of the *Pg* and *Lg* phases, the spectral ratios at various frequency bands are studied to examine the spectral characteristics. Due to the broad-band nature of the CDSN stations, we are able to examine spectral ratios between widely spaced frequency bands between 1.6-2.5 Hz and 16.0-25.0 Hz using the short-period data.

Two different frequency bands of *Pg* phase, 2-4 Hz and 4-6 Hz, were ratioed using the short period data and the results are shown in Figures 8a and 8b. The earthquake and explosion populations are mixed with each other and show the same increasing trend with magnitude. A similar feature is observed for the frequency band-ratioing between 2-4 Hz and 8-10 Hz for the *Pg* phase using short-period data. The results here indicate that for larger explosions or earthquakes, the *Pg* phase appears to have less high-frequency energy. The rate of deficiency of high frequency energy with respect to magnitude remains the same for the frequency bands 4-6 Hz and 8-10 Hz.

For *Lg* phase, two similar bands of ratioing were performed and the results are shown in Figures 9a and 9b. For the frequency band-ratioing between 2-4 Hz, a pattern similar to that of the *Pg* phase is observed indicating that there is a gradual decrease of high frequency energy in the band of 4-6 Hz compared to those at 2-4 Hz as the body wave magnitude increases. Frequency band-ratioing between 2-4 Hz and 8-10 Hz show a steeper slope than the ratios studied earlier, shown in Figure 9a. This result indicates that for *Lg*, there is a more rapid depletion of energy with body wave magnitude as the frequency increases.

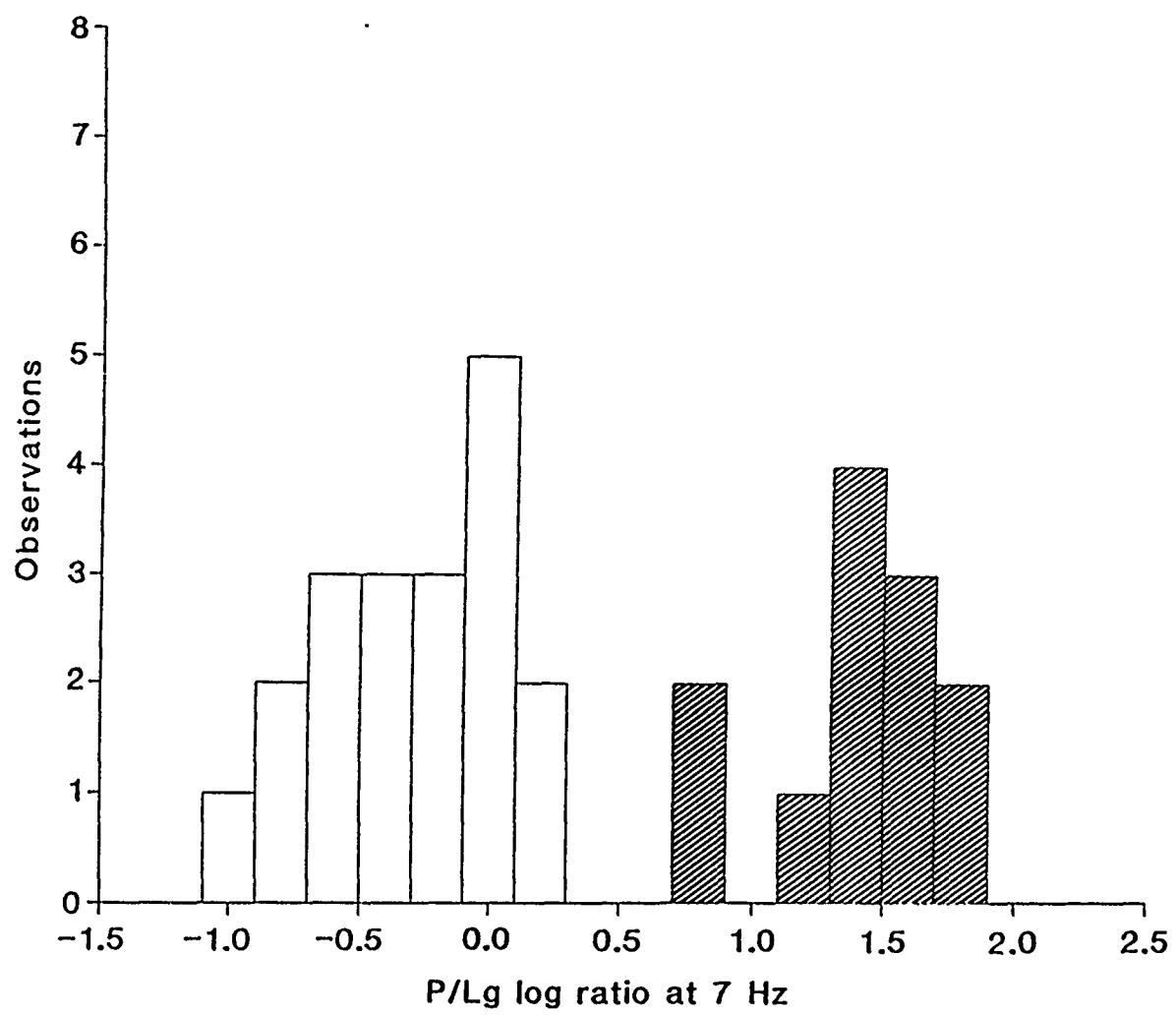


Figure 7. Histograms showing the distribution of P/Lg log ratio for earthquakes and explosions(shaded) at a center frequency of 7 Hz.

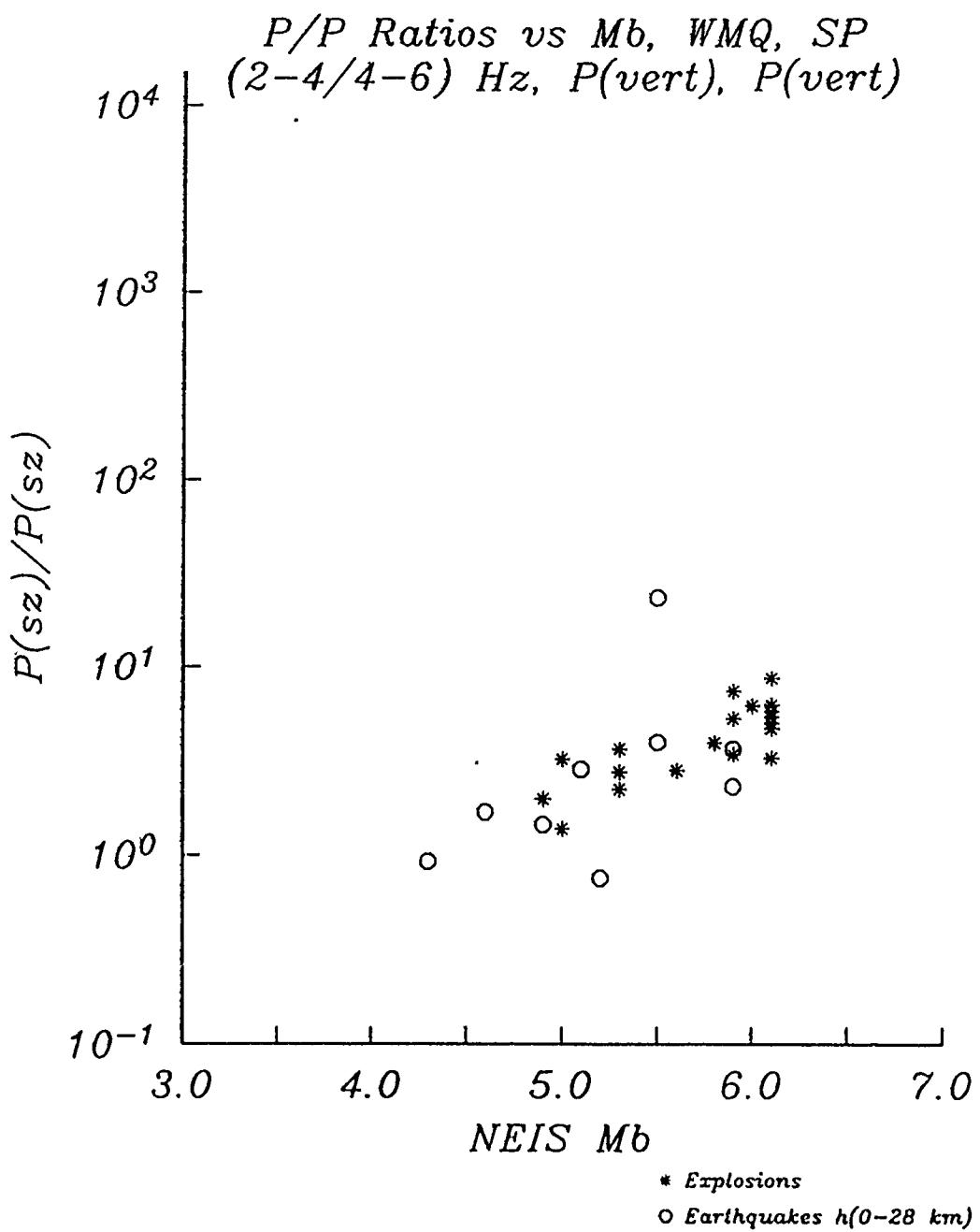


Figure 8a. Plot of $Pg(2-4 \text{ Hz})/Pg(4-6 \text{ Hz})$ spectral ratios versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ.

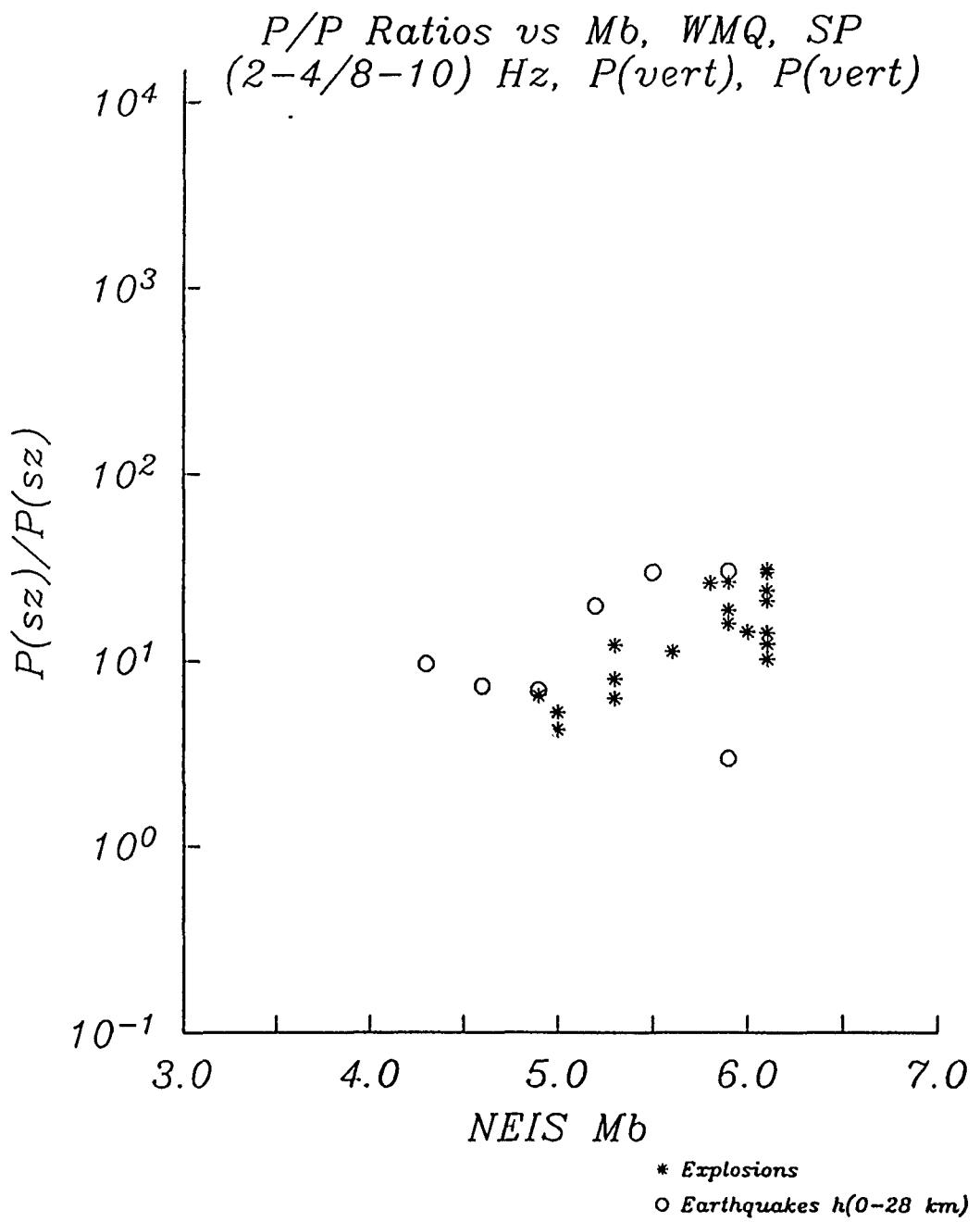


Figure 8b. Plot of $Pg(2-4 \text{ Hz})/Pg(8-10 \text{ Hz})$ spectral ratios versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ.

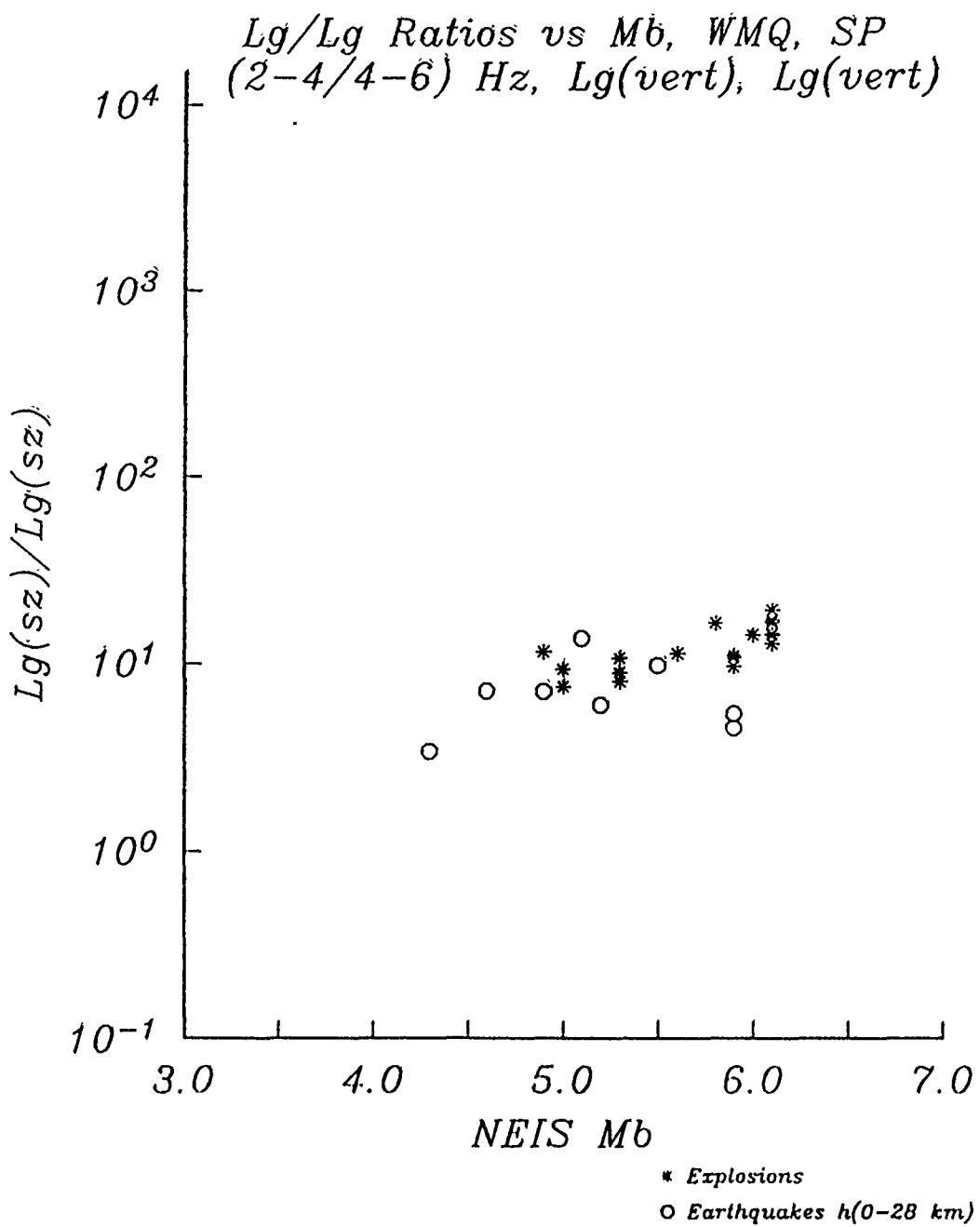


Figure 9a. Plot of $Lg(2\text{-}4\text{ Hz})/Lg(4\text{-}8\text{ Hz})$ spectral ratios versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ.

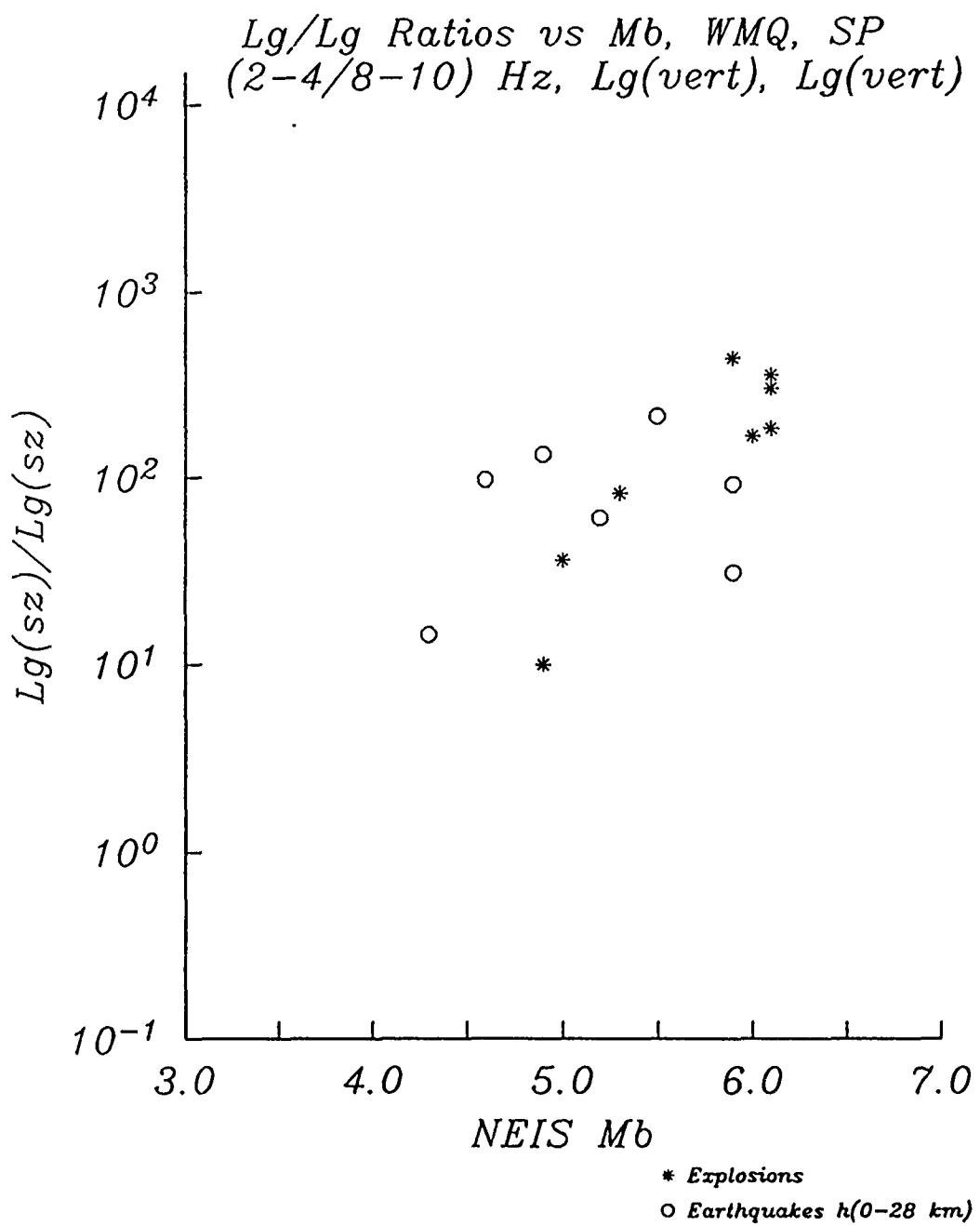


Figure 9b. Plot of $Lg(2-4 \text{ Hz})/Lg(8-10 \text{ Hz})$ spectral ratios versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ.

3.3 Three-component Analysis

The CDSN stations are equipped with 3-component seismometers. The ratioing between the horizontal and vertical component data may guide us in determining the characteristics of the 3-component data and to evaluate whether the 3-component data may prove to be an effective discriminant. The horizontal data are first rotated to be radially and transversely polarized. The vertical component energy represents the Rayleigh-type motion, whereas the energy on the transverse component represents that of the Love-type motion.

The frequency phase ratioing between the transverse and vertical component of the data indicates that the ratios for the explosions are less than those of the earthquakes and less than unity, in particular at frequency bands of 1.0-2.0 and 2.0-4.0 Hz, as is shown in Figures 10a and 10b. This observation is opposite from what one may expect for explosions. It is commonly believed that explosions possess less Love-type energy and therefore the ratios $Lg(Z)/Lg(T)$ should be greater than 1. The ratios between horizontal and vertical components of Lg may not be used as any kind of discriminant, but the low level of the ratios for explosions is rather intriguing.

We have further tested the 3-component frequency phase-ratio between Pg on the vertical component and Lg on the transverse component at various frequency bands. In Figures 11a and 11b, the explosion and earthquake phase ratios are plotted versus body-wave magnitude, mb. Similar to the analysis in the previous section, the $Pg(Z)$ to $Lg(T)$ ratios for the earthquakes are lower than those of the explosions for both frequency bands between 6.0-8.0 and 4.0-6.0 Hz. The 3-component phase ratioing has produced the same result as the vertical component ratioing.

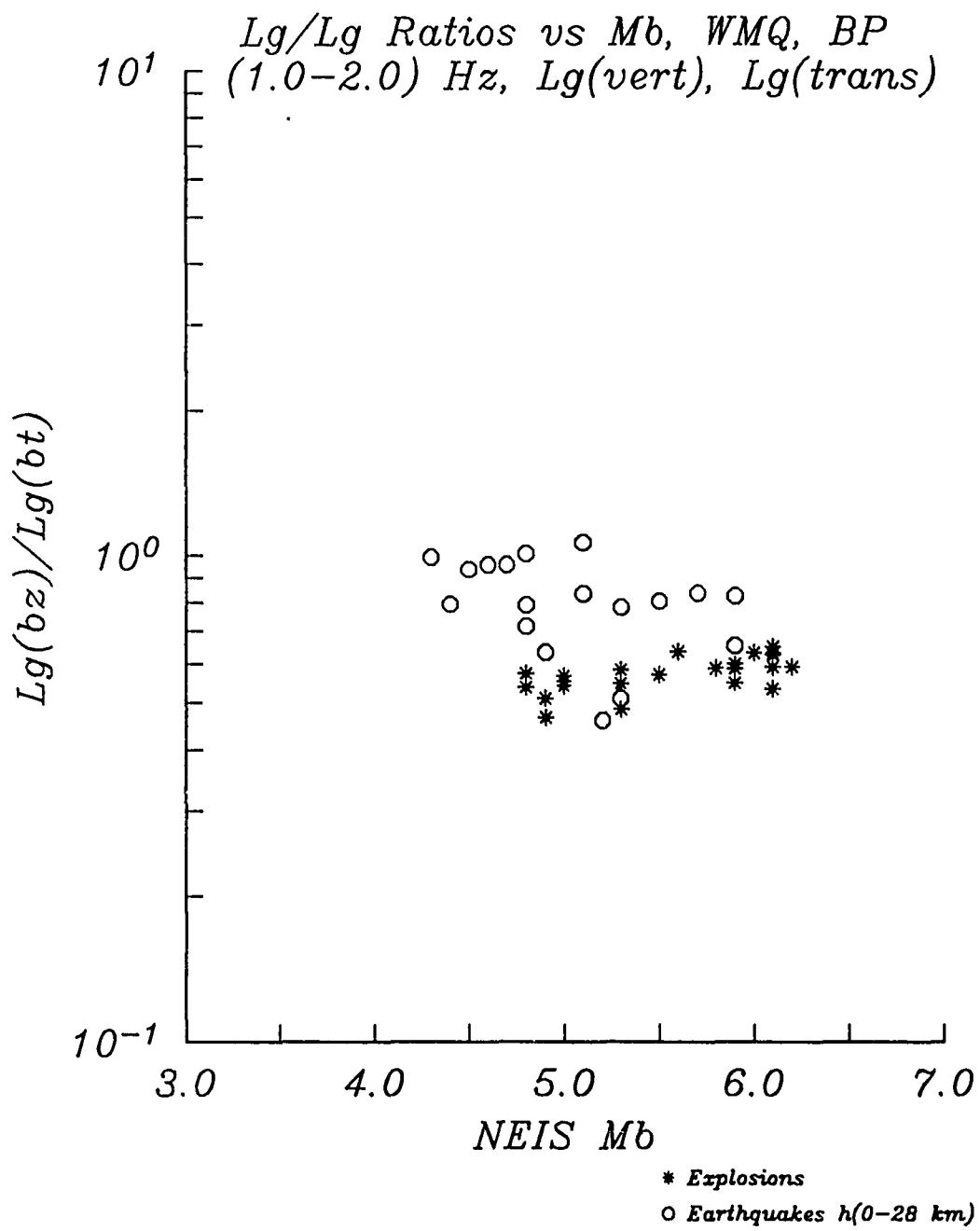


Figure 10a. Plot of $Lg(Z)/Lg(T)$ spectral ratios at 1.0-2.0 Hz versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the broad-band data of WMQ.

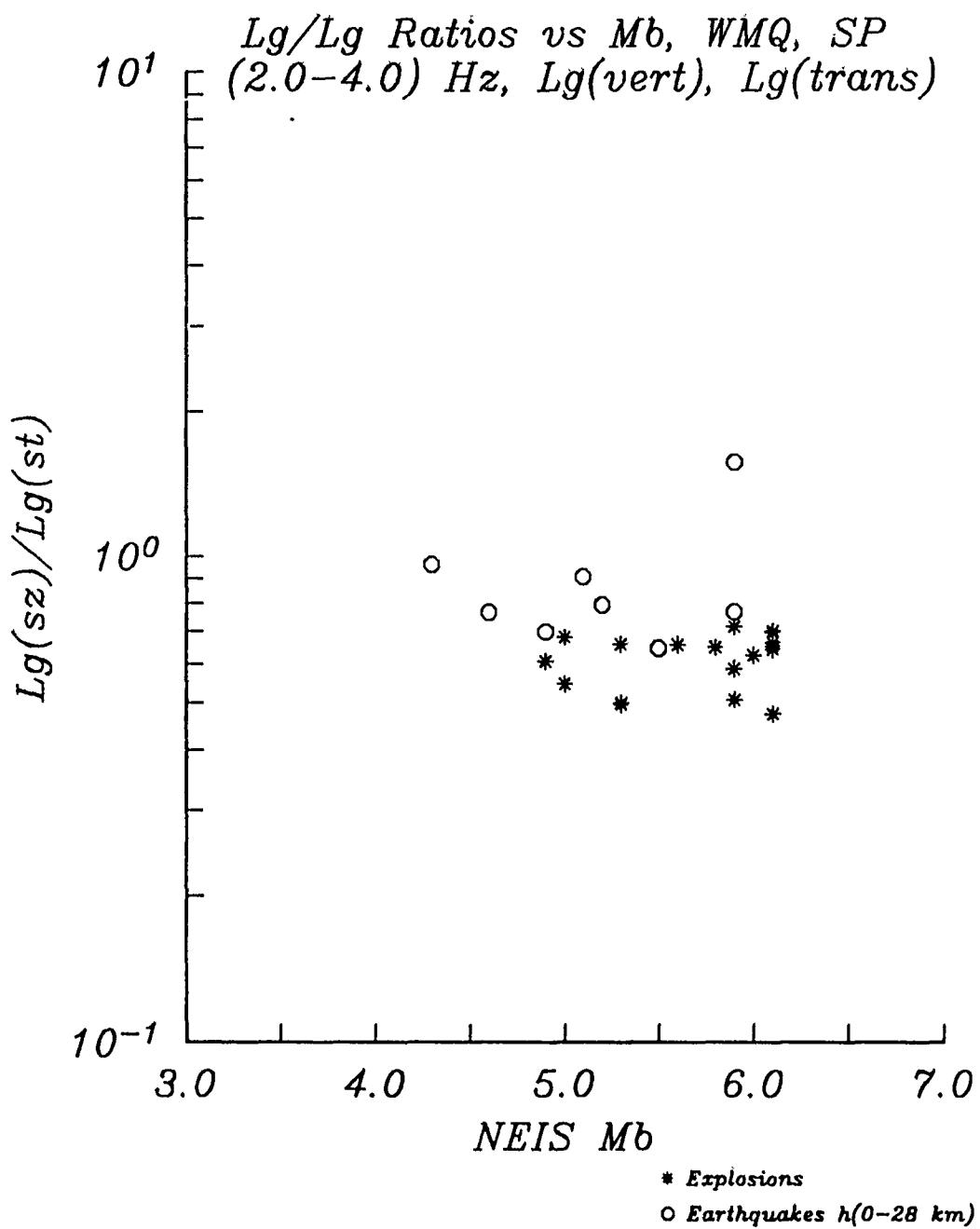


Figure 10b. Plot of $Lg(Z)/Lg(T)$ spectral ratios at 2.0-4.0 Hz versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the broad-band data of WMQ.

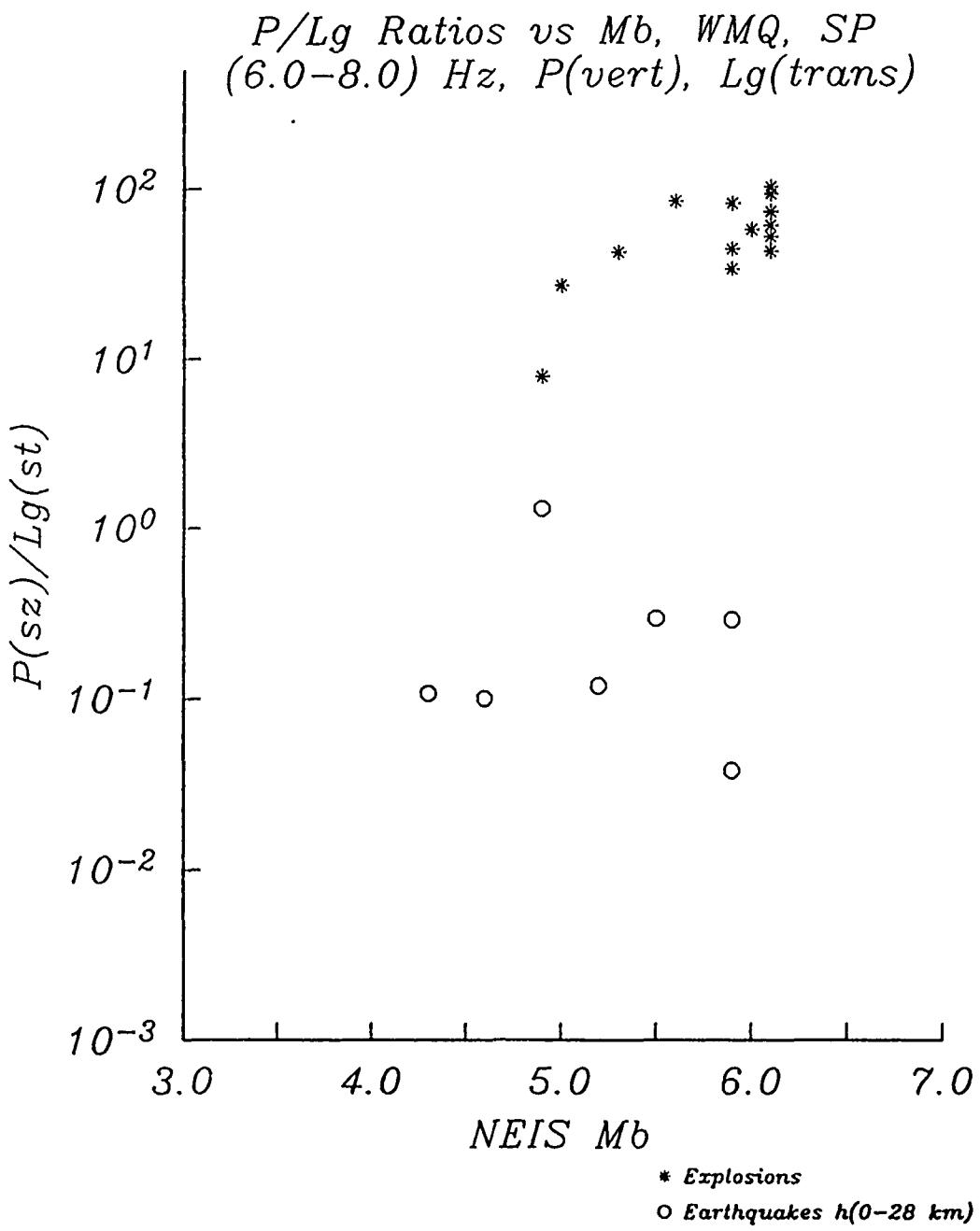


Figure 11a. Plot of $Pg(Z)/Lg(T)$ spectral ratios at 6.0-8.0 Hz versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the short-period data of WMQ.

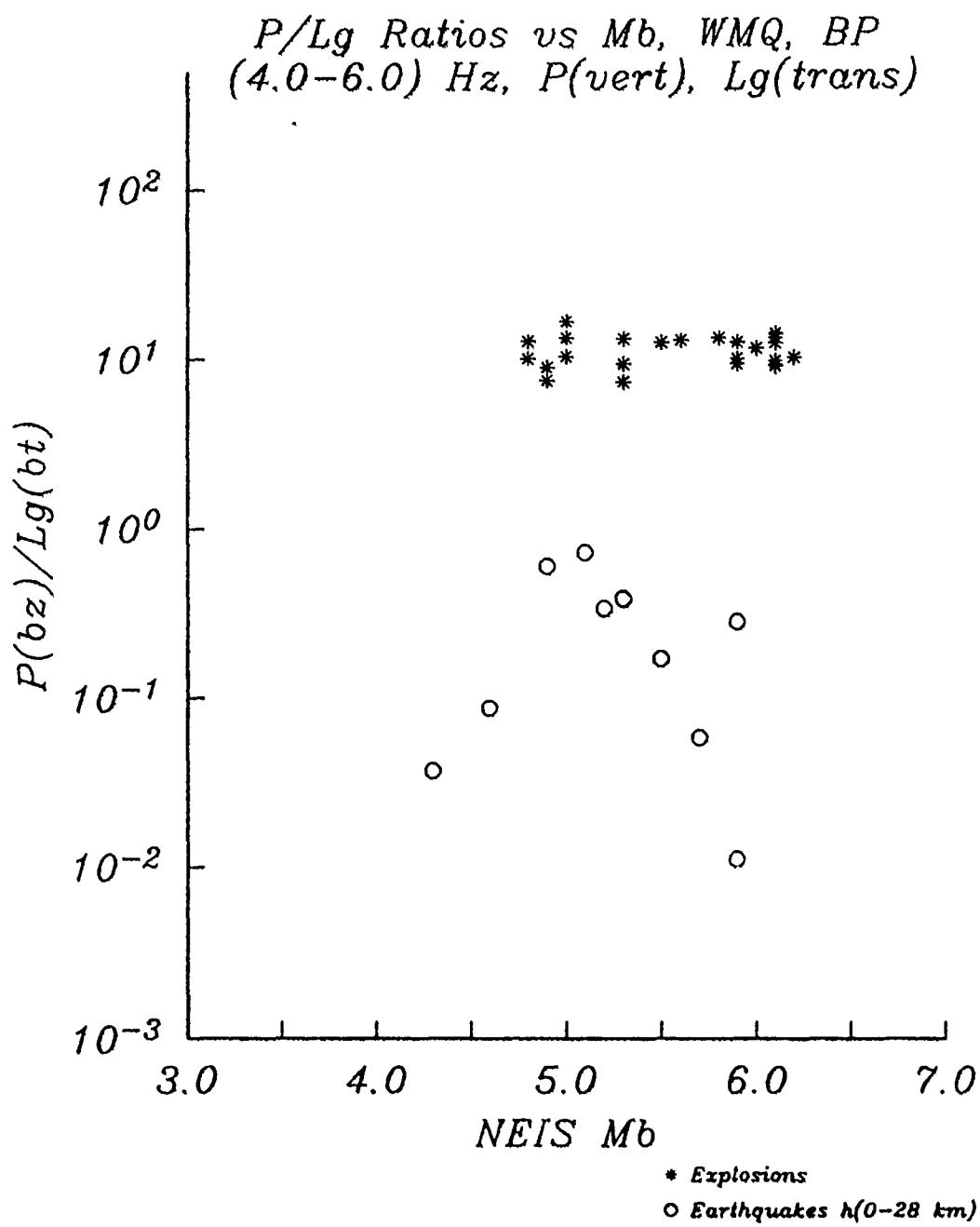


Figure 11b. Plot of $Pg(Z)/Lg(T)$ spectral ratios at 4.0-6.0 Hz versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the broad-band data of WMQ.

4.0 DISCUSSION

The analysis in this study has demonstrated the characteristics of spectral ratios between Pg and Lg phases for paths traversing Central Eurasia. It is observed that the results indicated the possibility of using Pg and Lg spectral ratios as a discriminant between earthquakes and explosions. Before one can be conclusive on such a discriminant, a suite of parameters need to be evaluated in terms of how they might affect the discriminant.

4.1 Depth Effect

For most of this study, the depths of the earthquakes used have been limited to less than 28 km. This limit is arbitrarily chosen to ensure that all earthquakes be of shallow focus. The gross effect of depths on the spectral ratio relationship is shown in Figures 12a and 12b. The figures indicate that the deeper focus earthquakes have a larger Pg/Lg spectral ratio at both the low (0.2-0.5 Hz) and the high (2.0-4.0 Hz) frequency bands. This analysis indeed shows that the depth parameters do indeed have significant effects on the Pg/Lg spectral ratio level. Furthermore, by plotting the spectral ratios against depth as is shown in Figure 13, it is observed that the explosion population remains well separated from the earthquakes at all depths. Frankel (1989) had demonstrated the effects of source depth on the spectral characteristics of regional phases using synthetic seismograms. Even though the depth wavelength in Frankel's study is orders of magnitude different from the above analysis, it nonetheless demonstrates the large scale effect of source depth on spectra.

4.2 Frequency Effect

It is also a goal of this study to understand the effect of frequency on the spectral ratio discriminant. Section 3.2 showed the effect of frequency band-ratioing of the Pg and Lg phases, indicating that the variations in frequency bands are too insensitive to allow the band-ratioing method to be an effective discriminant. Due to the scatter in the band-ratioing for both phases (Figures 8 and 9), it fails to provide a definite indication as to whether

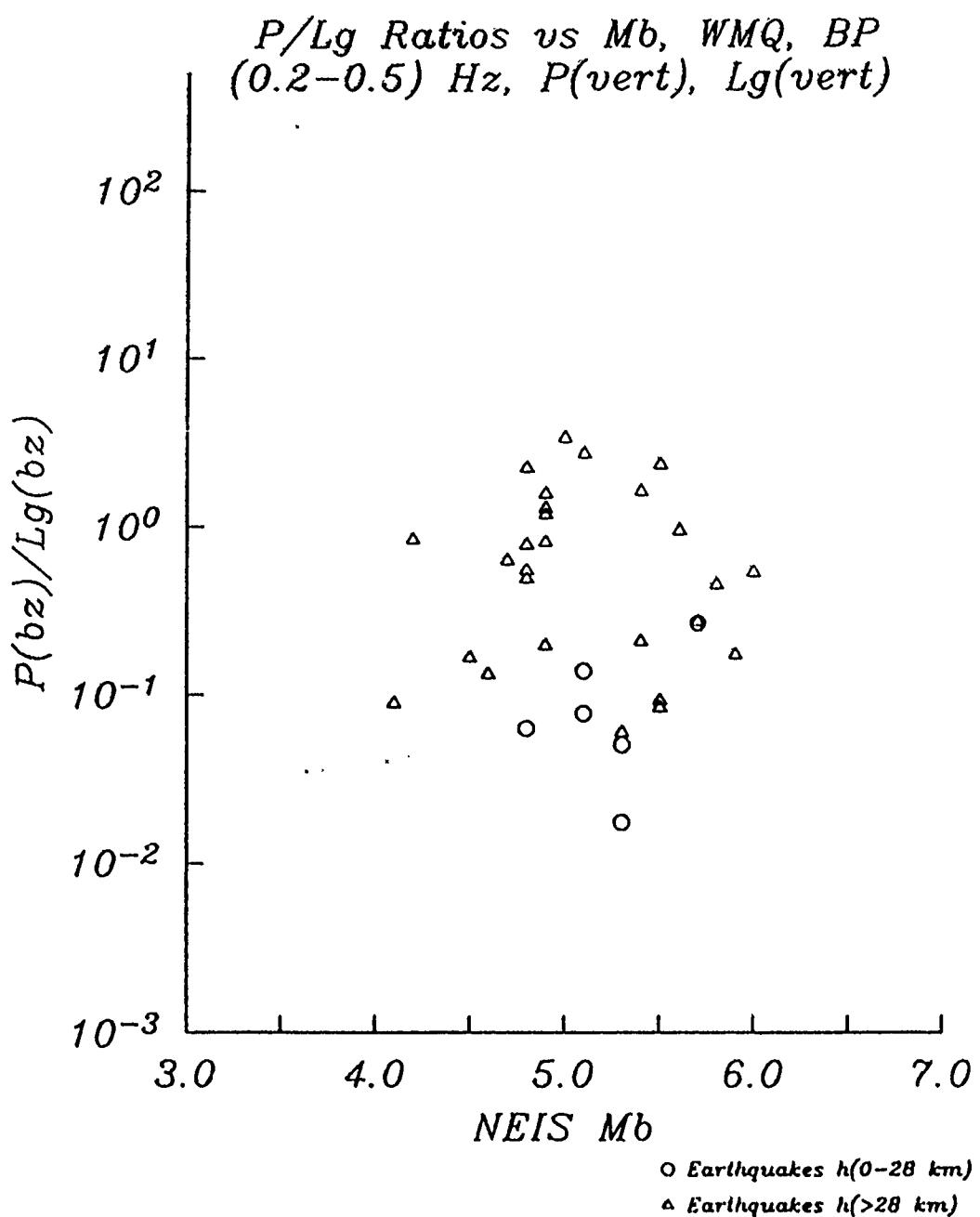


Figure 12a. Plot of Pg/Lg spectral ratios at 0.2-0.5 Hz versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component broad-band data of WMQ.

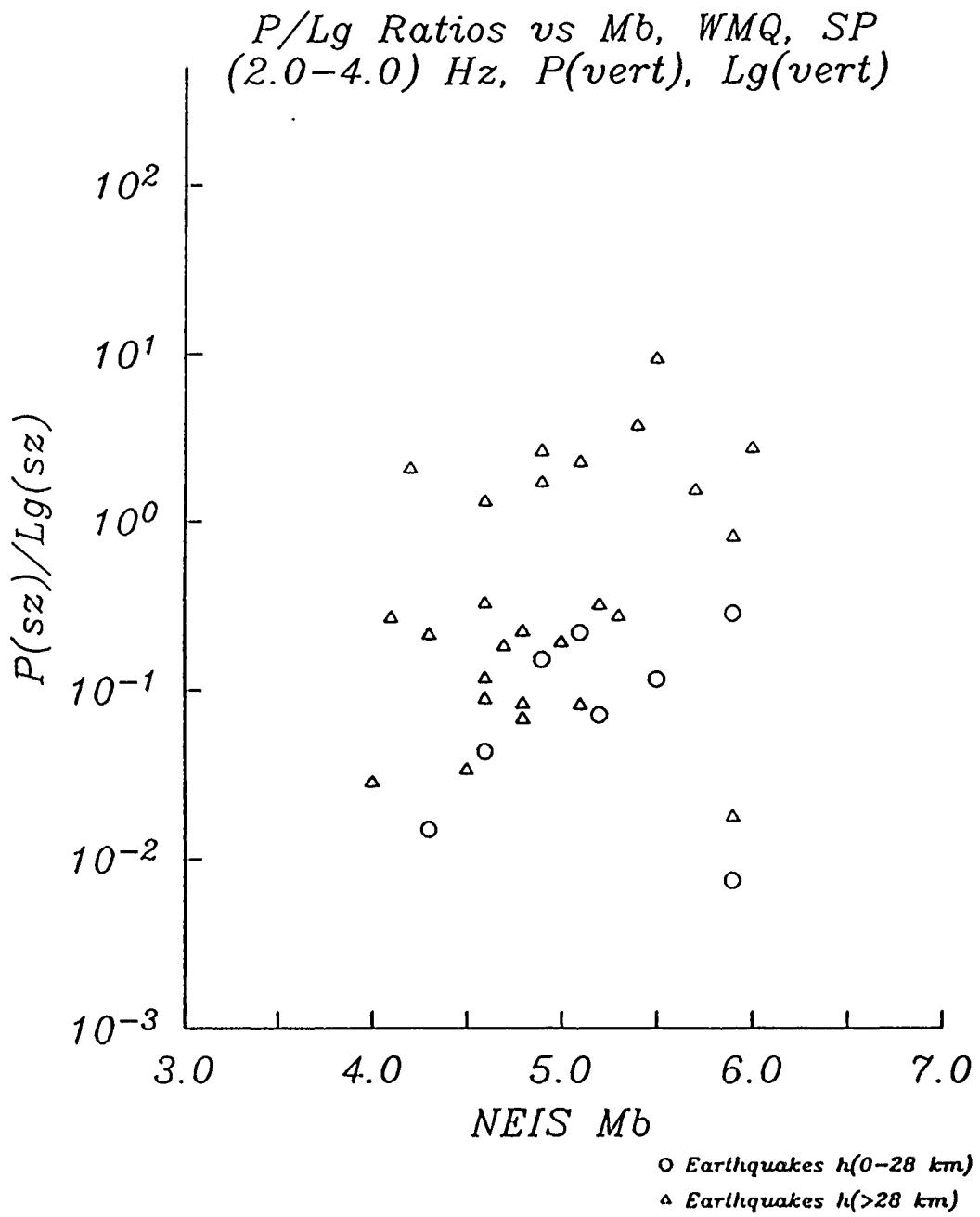


Figure 12b. Plot of Pg/Lg spectral ratios at 2.0-4.0 Hz versus mb for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ.

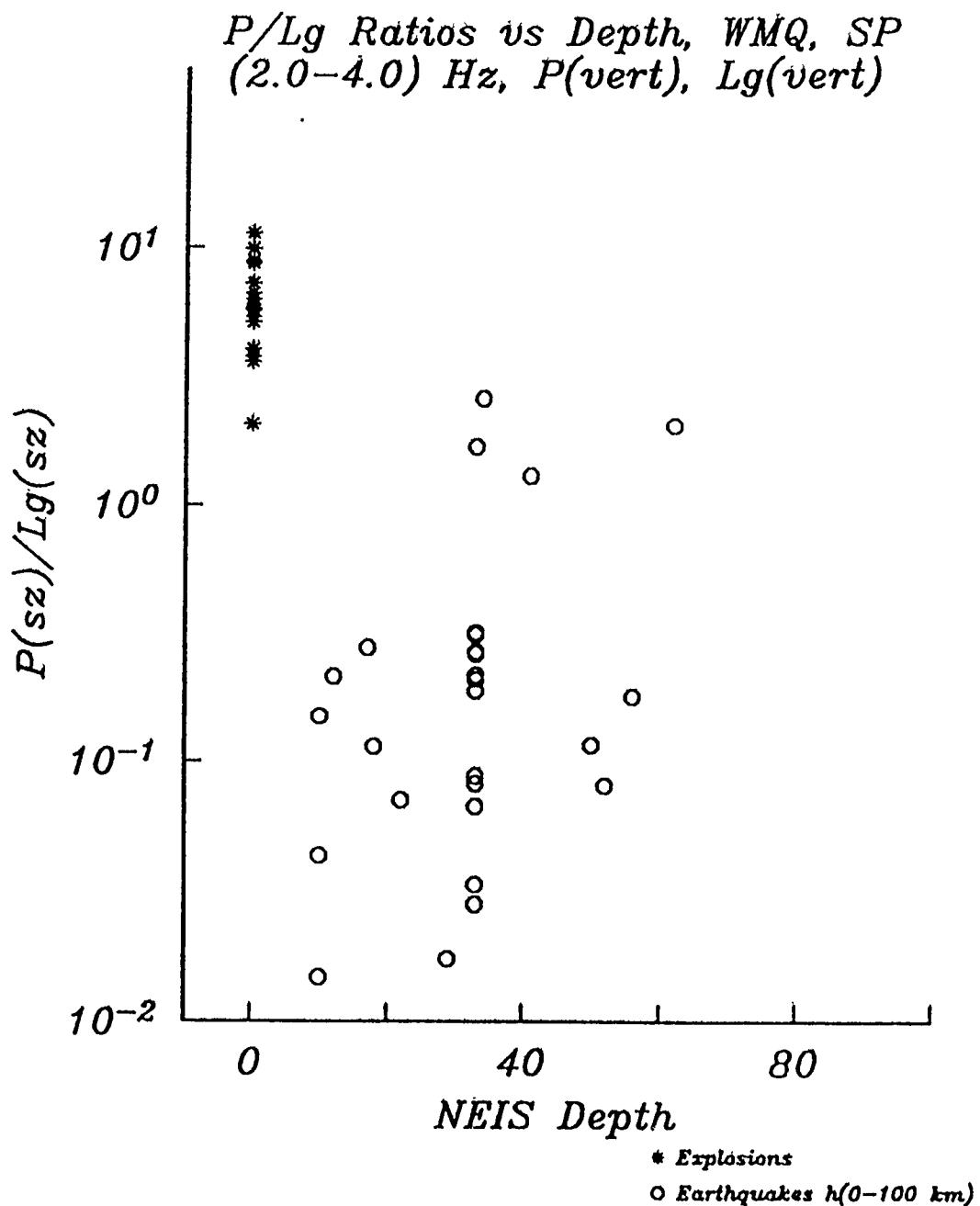


Figure 13. Plot of Pg/Lg spectral ratios at 2.0-4.0 Hz versus depth for earthquakes and explosions using the vertical component short-period data of WMQ.

earthquakes or explosions contain more high frequency energy for these two phases. One exception is that there is an indication that explosion Pg contains more high frequency energy, as is shown in Figure 8b where most explosion ratios fall below those of earthquakes. In the case of Lg , the results are too scattered to reach any conclusion.

4.3 Path Effect

It has been argued that path effect is a rather important factor in spectral ratio studies (e.g. Frankel, 1989; Taylor, 1988). In order to access this effect, we have examined earthquakes from two different azimuths from WMQ to see if there is any detected difference in their spectral ratios characteristics. Earthquakes in Figure 1 are separated into two groups, west and east of WMQ. This separation is based upon the fact that the region west of WMQ may be more tectonically active than the region to the east of WMQ, which is more nearly a stable basin. The two groups of earthquakes are plotted in Figures 4a and 4b in two different symbols. There is a slight indication that the earthquakes to the west may be characterized by higher ratios than those to the east. This is inconclusive due to the high degree of scatter in the data.

Another approach is to determine whether signals propagating along the path from WMQ to E. Kazakh exhibit characteristics of large spectral ratios. We have identified two earthquakes that are within 20 degrees in azimuth from WMQ to E. Kazakh for which the signals travel along a similar path as do those from the explosions. These events are indicated as 89043b and 86348 in Figure 1. The Pg/Lg spectral ratios of these two events are computed and plotted in Figure 5 along with the rest of the results. These ratios fall among the earthquake population and are among the largest of all earthquakes, yet they are still distinctly separated from the explosion population. The results are not unexpected, as these two events are of uncertain depth (NEIS depth of 33km). As indicated in earlier analysis, deeper earthquakes are characterized by large spectral ratios. If these two events are indeed shallow events, the spectral ratios of these two events may serve as the upper bound for the

earthquake populations. If on the other hand they are deeper earthquakes, this fact shall be easily discernible and it will not be necessary for such a discriminant to be applied, as this discriminant is designed for distinguishing shallow focus earthquakes from explosions.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

A spectral ratio method can likely be used to discriminate between earthquakes and explosions in the Central Eurasia region, but the lack of ground truth information remains an obstacle. The narrow bandpass filtering scheme provides a full characterization of each seismic signal in the time and frequency domains. If the same event is observed at several stations, then we shall have some descriptions of the distance dependence of the wavetrain as well. The data characterizing the events will consist of descriptions of the absolute and relative amplitudes of the arrivals in various frequency bands and their time domain envelopes (including that of their cudas as well). With the collected data, we shall also compile information that may be useful for providing physical explanations for the empirical results. Such information will include, but not be limited to, source depths, types of blasts, path characterization, and source mechanisms. Additional emphasis will be placed upon paths that may have anomalously efficient propagation of the regional phases.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors thank I. N. Gupta and C. S. Lynnes for valuable discussions. This research was funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and monitored by the Air Force Geophysical Laboratory under Contract F19628-89-C-0036. The views and conclusions contained in this report are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or the U.S. Government.

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CONTRACTORS (UNITED STATES)

Prof. Thomas Ahrens
Seismological Lab, 252-21
Division of Geological & Planetary Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125

Prof. Charles B. Archambeau
CIRCS
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309

Dr. Thomas C. Bache, Jr.
Science Applications Int'l Corp.
10260 Campus Point Drive
San Diego, CA 92121 (2 copies)

Prof. Muawia Barazangi
Institute for the Study of the Continent
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Dr. Douglas R. Baumgardt
ENSCO, Inc
5400 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22151-2388

Prof. Jonathan Berger
IGPP, A-025
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093

Dr. Lawrence J. Burdick
Woodward-Clyde Consultants
566 El Dorado Street
Pasadena, CA 91109-3245

Dr. Jerry Carter
Center for Seismic Studies
1300 North 17th St., Suite 1450
Arlington, VA 22209-2308

Dr. Karl Coyner
New England Research, Inc.
76 Olcott Drive
White River Junction, VT 05001

Prof. Vernon F. Cormier
Department of Geology & Geophysics
U-45, Room 207
The University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06268

Professor Anton W. Dainty
Earth Resources Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
42 Carleton Street
Cambridge, MA 02142

Prof. Steven Day
Department of Geological Sciences
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182

Dr. Zoltan A. Der
ENSCO, Inc.
5400 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22151-2388

Prof. John Ferguson
Center for Lithospheric Studies
The University of Texas at Dallas
P.O. Box 830688
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

Dr. Mark D. Fisk
Mission Research Corporation
735 State Street
P. O. Drawer 719
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Prof. Stanley Flatte
Applied Sciences Building
University of California
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Dr. Alexander Florence
SRI International
333 Ravenswood Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493

Prof. Stephen Grand
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Geological Sciences
Austin, TX 78713-7909

Prof. Henry L. Gray
Vice Provost and Dean
Department of Statistical Sciences
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275

Dr. Indra Gupta
Teledyne Geotech
314 Montgomery Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Prof. David G. Harkrider
Seismological Laboratory
Division of Geological & Planetary Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125

Prof. Donald V. Helmberger
Seismological Laboratory
Division of Geological & Planetary Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125

Prof. Eugene Herrin
Institute for the Study of Earth and Man
Geophysical Laboratory
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275

Prof . Robert B. Herrmann
Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
St. Louis University
St. Louis, MO 63156

Prof. Bryan Isacks
Cornell University
Department of Geological Sciences
SNEE Hall
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dr. Rong-Song Jih
Teledyne Geotech
314 Montgomery Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Prof. Lane R. Johnson
Seismographic Station
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Prof. Alan Kafka
Department of Geology & Geophysics
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Dr. Richard LaCoss
MIT-Lincoln Laboratory
M-200B
P. O. Box 73
Lexington, MA 02173-0073 (3 copies)

Prof Fred K. Lamb
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Physics
1110 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Prof. Charles A. Langston
Geosciences Department
403 Deike Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

Prof. Thorne Lay
Institute of Tectonics
Earth Science Board
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Prof. Arthur Lerner-Lam
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964

Dr. Christopher Lynnes
Teledyne Geotech
314 Montgomery Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Prof. Peter Malin
University of California at Santa Barbara
Institute for Crustal Studies
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Dr. Randolph Martin, III
New England Research, Inc.
76 Olcott Drive
White River Junction, VT 05001

Prof. Thomas V. McEvilly
Seismographic Station
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dr. Keith L. McLaughlin
S-CUBED
A Division of Maxwell Laboratory
P.O. Box 1620
La Jolla, CA 92038-1620

Prof. William Menke
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964

Stephen Miller
SRI International
333 Ravenswood Avenue
Box AF 116
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493

Prof. Bernard Minster
IGPP, A-025
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093

Prof. Brian J. Mitchell
Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
St. Louis University
St. Louis, MO 63156

Mr. Jack Murphy
S-CUBED, A Division of Maxwell Laboratory
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive
Suite 1212
Reston, VA 22091 (2 copies)

Dr. Bao Nguyen
GL/EWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Prof. John A. Orcutt
IGPP, A-025
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093

Prof. Keith Priestley
University of Cambridge
Bullard Labs, Dept. of Earth Sciences
Madingley Rise, Madingley Rd.
Cambridge CB3 OEZ, ENGLAND

Prof. Paul G. Richards
Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964

Dr. Wilmer Rivers
Teledyne Geotech
314 Montgomery Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Prof. Charles G. Sammis
Center for Earth Sciences
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0741

Prof. Christopher H. Scholz
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964

Thomas J. Sereno, Jr.
Science Application Int'l Corp.
10260 Campus Point Drive
San Diego, CA 92121

Prof. David G. Simpson
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964

Dr. Jeffrey Stevens
S-CUBED
A Division of Maxwell Laboratory
P.O. Box 1620
La Jolla, CA 92038-1620

Prof. Brian Stump
Institute for the Study of Earth & Man
Geophysical Laboratory
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275

Prof. Jeremiah Sullivan
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Physics
1110 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Prof. Clifford Thurber
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Geology & Geophysics
1215 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53706

Prof. M. Nafi Toksoz
Earth Resources Lab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
42 Carleton Street
Cambridge, MA 02142

Prof. John E. Vidale
University of California at Santa Cruz
Seismological Laboratory
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Prof. Terry C. Wallace
Department of Geosciences
Building #77
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

Dr. Raymond Willeman
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

**Dr. Lorraine Wolf
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000**

**Dr. William Wortman
8560 Cinderbed Road
Suite # 700
Newington, VA 22122**

OTHERS (UNITED STATES)

Dr. Monem Abdel-Gawad
Rockwell International Science Center
1049 Camino Dos Rios
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Dr. G.A. Bollinger
Department of Geological Sciences
Virginia Polytechnical Institute
21044 Derring Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Prof. Keiiti Aki
Center for Earth Sciences
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0741

Dr. Stephen Bratt
Center for Seismic Studies
1300 North 17th Street
Suite 1450
Arlington, VA 22209

Prof. Shelton S. Alexander
Geosciences Department
403 Deike Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

Michael Browne
Teledyne Geotech
3401 Shiloh Road
Garland, TX 75041

Dr. Kenneth Anderson
BBNSTC
Mail Stop 14/1B
Cambridge, MA 02238

Mr. Roy Burger
1221 Serry Road
Schenectady, NY 12309

Dr. Ralph Archuleta
Department of Geological Sciences
University of California at Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Dr. Robert Burridge
Schlumberger-Doll Research Center
Old Quarry Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Dr. Jeff Barker
Department of Geological Sciences
State University of New York
at Binghamton
Vestal, NY 13901

Dr. W. Winston Chan
Teledyne Geotech
314 Montgomery Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1581

Dr. Susan Beck
Department of Geosciences, Bldg # 77
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

Dr. Theodore Cherry
Science Horizons, Inc.
710 Encinitas Blvd., Suite 200
Encinitas, CA 92024 (2 copies)

Dr. T.J. Bennett
S-CUBED
A Division of Maxwell Laboratory
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 1212
Reston, VA 22091

Prof. Jon F. Claerbout
Department of Geophysics
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Mr. William J. Best
907 Westwood Drive
Vienna, VA 22180

Prof. Robert W. Clayton
Seismological Laboratory
Division of Geological & Planetary Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125

Dr. N. Biswas
Geophysical Institute
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Prof. F. A. Dahlen
Geological and Geophysical Sciences
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544-0636

Prof. Adam Dziewonski
Hoffman Laboratory
Harvard University
20 Oxford St
Cambridge, MA 02138

Prof. John Ebel
Department of Geology & Geophysics
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Eric Fielding
SNEE Hall
INSTOC
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Prof. Donald Forsyth
Department of Geological Sciences
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

Dr. Cliff Frolich
Institute of Geophysics
8701 North Mopac
Austin, TX 78759

Dr. Anthony Gangi
Texas A&M University
Department of Geophysics
College Station, TX 77843

Dr. Freeman Gilbert
IGPP, A-025
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of California
La Jolla, CA 92093

Mr. Edward Giller
Pacific Sierra Research Corp.
1401 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

Dr. Jeffrey W. Given
SAIC
10260 Campus Point Drive
San Diego, CA 92121

Prof. Roy Greenfield
Geosciences Department
403 Deike Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dan N. Hagedorn
Battelle
Pacific Northwest Laboratories
Battelle Boulevard
Richland, WA 99352

Dr. James Hannan
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Kevin Hutchenson
Department of Earth Sciences
St. Louis University
3507 Laclede
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dr. Hans Israelsson
Center for Seismic Studies
1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 1450
Arlington, VA 22209-2308

Prof. Thomas H. Jordan
Department of Earth, Atmospheric
and Planetary Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA 02139

Robert C. Kemerait
ENSCO, Inc.
445 Pineda Court
Melbourne, FL 32940

William Kikendall
Teledyne Geotech
3401 Shiloh Road
Garland, TX 75041

Prof. Leon Knopoff
University of California
Institute of Geophysics & Planetary Physics
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Prof. L. Timothy Long
School of Geophysical Sciences
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332

Dr. Gary McCartor
Department of Physics
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275

Prof. Art McGarr
Mail Stop 977
Geological Survey
345 Middlefield Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dr. Paul Pomeroy
Rondout Associates
P.O. Box 224
Stone Ridge, NY 12484

Dr. George Mellman
Sierra Geophysics
11255 Kirkland Way
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dr. Jay Pulli
RADIX System, Inc.
2 Taft Court, Suite 203
Rockville, MD 20850

Prof. John Nabelek
College of Oceanography
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dr. Norton Rimer
S-CUBED
A Division of Maxwell Laboratory
P.O. Box 1620
La Jolla, CA 92038-1620

Prof. Geza Nagy
University of California, San Diego
Department of Ames, M.S. B-010
La Jolla, CA 92093

Prof. Larry J. Ruff
Department of Geological Sciences
1006 C.C. Little Building
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1063

Dr. Keith K. Nakanishi
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
L-205
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Dr. Richard Sailor
TASC Inc.
55 Walkers Brook Drive
Reading, MA 01867

Prof. Amos Nur
Department of Geophysics
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Dr. Susan Schwartz
Institute of Tectonics
1156 High St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Prof. Jack Oliver
Department of Geology
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14850

John Sherwin
Teledyne Geotech
3401 Shiloh Road
Garland, TX 75041

Dr. Kenneth Olsen
P. O. Box 1273
Linwood, WA 98046-1273

Dr. Matthew Sibol
Virginia Tech
Seismological Observatory
4044 Derring Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0420

Howard J. Patton
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
L-205
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Dr. Albert Smith
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
L-205
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Prof. Robert Phinney
Geological & Geophysical Sciences
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544-0636

Prof. Robert Smith
Department of Geophysics
University of Utah
1400 East 2nd South
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dr. Stewart W. Smith
Geophysics AK-50
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Professor Daniel Walker
University of Hawaii
Institute of Geophysics
Honolulu, HI 96822

Donald L. Springer
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
L-205
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Dr. George Sutton
Rondout Associates
P.O. Box 224
Stone Ridge, NY 12484

William R. Walter
Seismological Laboratory
University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557

Prof. L. Sykes
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
of Columbia University
Palisades, NY 10964

Dr. Gregory Wojcik
Weidlinger Associates
4410 El Camino Real
Suite 110
Los Altos, CA 94022

Prof. Pradeep Talwani
Department of Geological Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Prof. John H. Woodhouse
Hoffman Laboratory
Harvard University
20 Oxford St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dr. David Taylor
ENSCO, Inc.
445 Pineda Court
Melbourne, FL 32940

Prof. Francis T. Wu
Department of Geological Sciences
State University of New York
at Binghamton
Vestal, NY 13901

Dr. Steven R. Taylor
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
L-205
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Dr. Gregory B. Young
ENSCO, Inc.
5400 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22151-2388

Professor Ta-Liang Teng
Center for Earth Sciences
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0741

Dr. Eileen Vergino
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
L-205
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Dr. R.B. Tittmann
Rockwell International Science Center
1049 Camino Dos Rios
P.O. Box 1085
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

J. J. Zucca
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, CA 94550

Dr. Gregory van der Vink
IRIS, Inc.
1616 North Fort Myer Drive
Suite 1440
Arlington, VA 22209

GOVERNMENT

Dr. Ralph Alewine III
DARPA/NMRO
1400 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209-2308

Mr. James C. Battis
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Dr. Robert Blandford
AFTAC/CSS
1300 North 17th St., Suite 1450
Arlington, VA 22209-2308

Eric Chael
Division 9241
Sandia Laboratory
Albuquerque, NM 87185

Dr. John J. Cipar
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Cecil Davis
Group P-15, Mail Stop D406
P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Mr. Jeff Duncan
Office of Congressman Markey
2133 Rayburn House Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dr. Jack Evernden
USGS - Earthquake Studies
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Art Frankel
USGS
922 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

Dr. Dale Glover
DIA/DT-1B
Washington, DC 20301

Dr. T. Hanks
USGS
Nat'l Earthquake Research Center
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Paul Johnson
ESS-4, Mail Stop J979
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Janet Johnston
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Dr. Katharine Kadinsky-Cade
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Ms. Ann Kerr
IGPP, A-025
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093

Dr. Max Koontz
US Dept of Energy/DP 5
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

Dr. W.H.K. Lee
Office of Earthquakes, Volcanoes,
& Engineering
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dr. William Leith
U.S. Geological Survey
Mail Stop 928
Reston, VA 22092

Dr. Richard Lewis
Director, Earthquake Engineering & Geophysics
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Box 631
Vicksburg, MS 39180

James F. Lewkowicz
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Mr. Alfred Lieberman
ACDA/VI-OA'State Department Bldg
Room 5726
320 - 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20451

Katie Policy
CIA-OSWR/NED
Washington, DC 20505

Stephen Mangino
GL/LWH
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Mr. Jack Rachlin
U.S. Geological Survey
Geology, Rm 3 C136
Mail Stop 928 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

Dr. Robert Masse
Box 25046, Mail Stop 967
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Dr. Robert Reinke
WL/NTESG
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-6008

Art McGarr
U.S. Geological Survey, MS-977
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dr. Byron Ristvet
HQ DNA, Nevada Operations Office
Attn: NVCG
P.O. Box 98539
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Richard Morrow
ACDA/VI, Room 5741
320 21st Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20451

Dr. George Rothe
HQ AFTAC/TTR
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-6001

Dr. Carl Newton
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663
Mail Stop C335, Group ESS-3
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dr. Alan S. Ryall, Jr.
DARPA/NMRO
1400 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209-2308

Dr. Kenneth H. Olsen
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663
Mail Stop D-406
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dr. Michael Shore
Defense Nuclear Agency/SPSS
6801 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

Mr. Chris Paine
Office of Senator Kennedy
SR 315
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Mr. Charles L. Taylor
GL/LWG
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

Colonel Jerry J. Perrizo
AFOSR/NP, Building 410
Bolling AFB
Washington, DC 20332-6448

Dr. Larry Turnbull
CIA-OSWR/NED
Washington, DC 20505

Dr. Frank F. Pilote
HQ AFTAC/TT
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-6001

Dr. Thomas Weaver
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop C335
Los Alamos, NM 87545

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Attn: LW
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000

DARPA/PM
1400 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

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Cameron Station
Alexandria, VA 22314 (5 copies)

CONTRACTORS (Foreign)

Dr. Ramon Cabre, S.J.
Observatorio San Calixto
Casilla 5939
La Paz, Bolivia

Prof. Hans-Peter Harjes
Institute for Geophysik
Ruhr University/Bochum
P.O. Box 102148
4630 Bochum 1, FRG

Prof. Eystein Husebye
NTNF/NORSAR
P.O. Box 51
N-2007 Kjeller, NORWAY

Prof. Brian L.N. Kennett
Research School of Earth Sciences
Institute of Advanced Studies
G.P.O. Box 4
Canberra 2601, AUSTRALIA

Dr. Bernard Massinon
Societe Radiomana
27 rue Claude Bernard
75005 Paris, FRANCE (2 Copies)

Dr. Pierre Mecheler
Societe Radiomana
27 rue Claude Bernard
75005 Paris, FRANCE

Dr. Svein Mykkeltveit
NTNF/NORSAR
P.O. Box 51
N-2007 Kjeller, NORWAY

FOREIGN (Others)

Dr. Peter Basham
Earth Physics Branch
Geological Survey of Canada
1 Observatory Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0Y3

Dr. Fekadu Kebede
Seismological Section
Box 12019
S-750 Uppsala, SWEDEN

Dr. Eduard Berg
Institute of Geophysics
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dr. Tormod Kvaerna
NTNF/NORSAR
P.O. Box 51
N-2007 Kjeller, NORWAY

Dr. Michel Bouchon
I.R.I.G.M.-B.P. 68
38402 St. Martin D'Heres
Cedex, FRANCE

Dr. Peter Marshal
Procurement Executive
Ministry of Defense
Blacknest, Brimpton
Reading RG7-4RS, UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Hilmar Bungum
NTNF/NORSAR
P.O. Box 51
N-2007 Kjeller, NORWAY

Prof. Ari Ben-Menahem
Department of Applied Mathematics
Weizman Institute of Science
Rehovot, ISRAEL 951729

Dr. Michel Campillo
Observatoire de Grenoble
I.R.I.G.M.-B.P. 53
38041 Grenoble, FRANCE

Dr. Robert North
Geophysics Division
Geological Survey of Canada
1 Observatory Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0Y3

Dr. Kin Yip Chun
Geophysics Division
Physics Department
University of Toronto
Ontario, CANADA M5S 1A7

Dr. Frode Ringdal
NTNF/NORSAR
P.O. Box 51
N-2007 Kjeller, NORWAY

Dr. Alan Douglas
Ministry of Defense
Blacknest, Brimpton
Reading RG7-4RS, UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Jorg Schlittenhardt
Federal Institute for Geosciences & Nat'l Res.
Postfach 510153
D-3000 Hannover 51, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY

Dr. Roger Hansen
NTNF/NORSAR
P.O. Box 51
N-2007 Kjeller, NORWAY

Dr. Mansfred Henger
Federal Institute for Geosciences & Nat'l Res.
Postfach 510153
D-3000 Hanover 51, FRG

Ms. Eva Johannsson
Senior Research Officer
National Defense Research Inst.
P.O. Box 27322
S-102 54 Stockholm, SWEDEN